

THE MESSENGER

Gina and I just returned from a wonderful trip celebrating 30 years of marriage. We had the whole family together at a cabin on a lake in Wisconsin, and it was one of those rare stretches of time where everything slows down and fills up at the same time. (I may have mentioned the importance of rest once or twice this summer.) Here are a few things I learned while we were away:

- 1. If you don't care what time it is, there's no time for stress.** I left my watch at home on purpose. No meetings. No responsibilities. No emails or calls. I ate when I was hungry, slept when I was tired, and let the days unfold. No watch, no stress.
- 2. True worship doesn't require structure, tradition, or even a building.** Our kids led worship outside — no bulletin, no screens, no formality. Guitar, singing, grandkids dancing, Ryan preaching, communion, more singing. I'm pretty sure the whole lake heard us. It was loud, joyful, and absolutely worship.
- 3. Weeds get far more brain power than they deserve.** I don't like weeds. I try to get rid of them. But weeds grow in yards and lakes and everywhere else. You can't control them, and they don't deserve the mental energy they steal. Life is too short to obsess over things we can't change.
- 4. Costco is not the place to be on Sunday morning.** We went to church in Omaha on our last Sunday away — it was great. Then we stopped at Costco. It reminded me that some places test your positivity more than others. (Costco, Sam's, Walmart, Scheel's... you get the idea.)
- 5. Other churches are cool too.** We visited another congregation while we were gone. The people were friendly. The pastors were great. It wasn't First Lutheran - but it was good. Sometimes it's healthy to see what God is doing in other places.

So why share all this?

Because every once in a while, we need to take the blinders off and see life from a different angle. Some of us cling so tightly to schedules that we lose spontaneity. Some of us hold so tightly to tradition that we confuse "the way we've always done it" with "the way God intended it." Some of us get so caught up in what the world says is right that we forget to look for what God says is good. Some of us follow the crowd so closely that we lose sight of the One we're actually called to follow. And some of us get so focused on church competition that we forget we can learn from - and partner with - other congregations.

Vacation reminded me of this: Rest clears your vision. Perspective softens your heart. And God often speaks the loudest when life is the quietest.



Pastor Gung



SEPTEMBER 6

Red Cross
Blood Drive
7:30am-12:00pm

SEPTEMBER 10

Mobile Banquet
Regency
5:30-6:00pm
Details Inside

SEPTEMBER 13

FALL KICK-OFF!
Sunday Small Groups Begin
LWR Soap Sunday
Grandparents, Games, & Goodies
Bible Distribution

SEPTEMBER 27

Annual Meeting
10:30am
*One Worship
Service at 9:00am

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.

Wednesday “Pray-lude” Worship at 6:15pm

Holy Communion is served during all worship services each week.



This month, we honor:

Beth Kindler turning 92 on September 29



ONE Worship Service (9:00am)
Annual Meeting (WC | 10:30am)
(Sunday Small Groups Will Not Meet)



FIRSTCARE
Ministry

CHILDREN & YOUTH

REGISTER FOR

**YOUTH & CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY**

2026-2027

There are opportunities
for every age!
Sign your child(ren) up today!
Activities start **SOON!**



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

Teen Talk

Drawn
to the Word

7th-12th Grade

SUNDAYS, 9:40-10:10am
at FLC

Relax over faith conversations,
coffee, & donut holes.

Books & Markers provided.
Bring your Bible, Creative Minds, & Open Hearts!

High School FLYs

- **Wed, Sept 2**, 7-9pm, Kick-Off Bonfire & Outdoor Games
- **Wed, Sept 9**, 7:00-9:00pm, FLY Rm
- **Sun, Sept 13**, 9:40-10:10am, Teen Talk Begins
- **Sun, Sept 13**, 2:00pm, Grandparents, Games, & Goodies
- **Wed, Sept 16**, 7:00-9:00pm, FLY Rm
- **Wed, Sept 23**, 7:00-9:00pm, FLY Rm
- **Wed, Sept 30**, 7:00-9:00pm, FLY Rm

Middle School FLYs & Confirmation

- **Wed, Sept 2**, 7:00-8:30pm, Rm 105, Confirmation
- **Wed, Sept 9**, 7:00-8:30pm, Middle Rm, MS FLYs
- **Sun, Sept 13**, 9:40-10:10am, Teen Talk Begins
- **Sun, Sept 13**, 2:00pm, Grandparents, Games, & Goodies
- **Wed, Sept 16**, 7:00-8:30pm, Rm 105, Confirmation
- **Wed, Sept 23**, 7:00-8:30pm, Middle Rm, MS FLYs
- **Wed, Sept 30**, 7:00-8:30pm, Rm 105, Confirmation

FLY56

- **Wed, Sept 9**, 3:45-5:00pm, Middle Rm
- **Sun, Sept 13**, 9:40-10:10am, SSG For Kids Begins
- **Sun, Sept 13**, 2:00pm, Grandparents, Games, & Goodies
- **Wed, Sept 16**, 3:45-5:00pm, Middle Rm
- **Wed, Sept 23**, 3:45-5:00pm, Middle Rm
- **Wed, Sept 30**, 3:45-5:00pm, Middle Rm

Save The Date!



**ANNUAL
FUNDRAISER**

Sunday, October 18, 2026

The annual FLY fundraiser will be held on **Sunday, October 18, 2026**. Mark your calendar and join us for supper, a silent auction, and Music Bingo! *Many more details to come!*

SUNDAY
SMALL GROUPS **FOR KIDS**

School is back in session, calendars are filling up. Don't forget to add Sunday Small Groups to your routine! **SSG kick-off is on Sunday, September 13!** Kids 1 year old through graduation have the opportunity to be part of a small group on Sunday mornings from 9:40-10:10am. Together they will dig into the Bible, be creative, build friendships, and learn about Jesus' great love for us.

****There are small groups for adults too. If you can't find one that works for you, talk to Pastor or Gina to discuss starting a new one!*

Contact **Gina DeBoer** (ginad@flcfremont.org) with any questions regarding Youth & Children's Ministries!

THANK YOU!

The Word of God is a gift to be shared, taught, learned, and read. **Join in worship on Sunday, September 13 as we present Bibles to our 3-year-olds, 3rd graders, and 7th graders.** Many thanks to those who have sponsored a Bible. Please continue to pray for these students as they dive into these Bibles and learn about God's great love for them.



BIBLE 101

Third graders, God's word (*your new Bible*) is a gift waiting to be opened and explored. Bring your Bible and a parent/guardian to meet with Pastor Greg on **Sunday, September 20** to open this gift and learn how to use it! This is a good refresher course for any older youth wanting to learn how to better use their Bible also!

Soap SUNDAY



sunday, september 13

Donate 8oz bars of soap of any brand
(in original packaging)
to support our LWR Kit Ministry! **300 Needed!**

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



As we welcome the month of September, we give thanks for the changing seasons and for all the ways God continues to bring us together as a congregation. September is a time of new beginnings, renewed routines, and opportunities to reconnect with one another.

September is going to be a busy and exciting month at ELC! We have lots of fun and important things coming up, so we wanted to make sure you have these dates on your calendar.



CHIPOTLE

25%
Goes
to the
ELC!

DO GOOD
WITH CHIPOTLE



SUPPORT THE ELC
TUESDAY
September 29
4:00-8:00PM

Dining In: Mention this fundraiser
Online Pick Up Order: Use code **927ADQZ**



WE'RE HIRING

FULL TIME INFANT TEACHER

WHAT WE OFFER:

- Competitive Wages
- No Hours After 5:30pm
- Evenings/Weekends/Holidays Off
- Sick & Vacation Leave
- Flexible Scheduling



APPLY NOW!

Send your resume to:
Mindy Olson, ELC Director
mindyo@flcfremont.org
402-721-2959

DISCIPLESHIP

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** is continuing the study on Louie Giglio's, "Don't Give The Enemy a Seat at Your Table." 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 series in the Heritage Room at 9:30am.**

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.



The Season is about to Start!

All members must be registered by Sunday, August 30 to be eligible for play. Draft Night is Tuesday, September 1 at 7:00pm! (In person attendance is not required to participate in the draft.) **Team Huddles** will begin on Tuesday, September 15, at 7:00pm.



Rest In Jesus: BINGO WINNERS!

As the warmth of summer fades, our hearts are so full hoping each of you found quiet, sacred moments to rest deeply in Jesus.

Congratulations to our BINGO Card Winners!
Becky & Dave Poppe and Michelle Jacobson

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@flcremont.org) with questions.



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, September 8, 6:30-7:30pm at FLC

FLC WOMEN

Faith Focused (previously: First Monday Morning Bible Study) will meet on **Tuesday, September 1, at 10:00am** at the home of Judy Jorgensen, 1320 Ruth Ave. Judi McKenzie will serve as co-hostess. The study will be Chapter 9 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, September 1, at 6:30pm** in the FLY Room.



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

Linda Texley will lead us through Chapter 11 of Max Lucado's book, Psalms: Life Lessons. New members are always welcome!

Faith Circle will meet on **Thursday, September 10 at 7:00pm** in the Conference Room. Carol Bosshardt will lead the lesson.



Many thanks to everyone who has signed up to be a Confirmation Partner! We're excited to share that we have reached a 1:1 ratio of youth to adults participating this year. Past partners have shared that "being a Confirmation Partner was a blessing because I got to learn alongside the youth, growing in my own faith while learning about their lives." Whether you signed up as a service to others, an opportunity to grow in your own faith, or a little of both, know that you are answering God's call at FLC to raise up disciples who know and love Jesus.



MISSION & OUTREACH

SEPTEMBER
FLC MOBILE BANQUET

HELP FLC SERVE
280 FREE MEALS



THURS. SEPT 10
5:30-6:30 PM

Extra Item: Dish Soap

OCTOBER MOBILE BANQUET



Winter will be here before we know it and we will begin to collect **winter coats, hats, mittens/gloves & scarves**. Be sure to browse the selections, on your next shopping trip!

The Mobile Banquet will be delivering **280 meals** to Regency, LifeHouse, & ASPIRE on Thursday, September 10, 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, September 9.

We are collecting: Dish 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



SEPTEMBER *the Bridge*
MINISTRY PARTNER

We're joining forces with **The Bridge** to support local survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

THE NEED:
WALMART & HY-VEE GIFT CARDS

THE IMPACT:
FRESH FOOD, GAS, & ESSENTIALS FOR SURVIVORS IN NEED

Let's rally together and bridge the gap.
Every card counts!

Donations can be dropped off at the Church Office.

\$10-\$50

GIFT CARDS

Walmart * HyVee

DONATE TODAY!

This month, we are partnering with **The Bridge**, a local organization providing 24/7 crisis support, emergency shelter, & advocacy services for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault.

Currently, they have a critical need for Walmart & Hy-Vee gift cards to support the survivors they serve. The Bridge has seen a significant increase in requests for food and gasoline assistance. While non-perishable food donations are often available, they cannot consistently provide fresh foods or meet clients' gasoline needs. These gift cards bridge that gap, offering survivors the flexibility to purchase essentials like gasoline, oil changes, groceries, toiletries, fresh produce, & meat.

Even a \$10 gift card makes a meaningful difference. It can help someone get to work, attend a court hearing, travel to a counseling appointment, or purchase fresh food for their family. Thank you for your faithful support of The Bridge and the survivors they serve. Gift cards can be dropped off at the Church Office or in the drop box in Fellowship Hall. You can make an online monetary donation by scanning the QR code or visiting our website.



First Lutheran Church

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Blood Crisis:
All blood types are needed, but there is a HIGH NEED for Type O. The blood supply fell nearly 25% in June.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

7:30am-12:00pm | FLC Fellowship Hall

SIGN UP: Niki @ 402-720-1825 OR www.redcrossblood.org



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.

MAIN FOCUS:

PERSONAL KITS & BABY KITS

Items Due: End of Sept.

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!





Mothers Of Many Seasons Together (MOMS Together)

2026-27 Registration is now OPEN! Gatherings begin September 22 and will be the first and third Tuesday of each month from 9:30-11:00am at First Lutheran.

Mothers Of Many Seasons Together is a supportive community of mothers who grow in love for God, their families, and their call to motherhood.

For more details and to register, please scan the QR code.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can Venmo @MOMStogether #7298. Monetary donations help keep registration fees low and provide registration scholarships.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – JULY/AUGUST

July & August FLC Council Highlights

- Strategic planning sessions with Auxano have started.
- Approved membership report provided reflecting baptisms, deaths, weddings, etc.
- FLC's Vitality Initiative with the Nebraska Synod is wrapping up on August 30.
- Approved the proposed budget to be presented to the congregation.
- Kick-off/orientation for all council members will be Tuesday, October 13.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Poppe, Council Secretary

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

Monthly Financial Report

	July Actual	July Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 43,443.14	\$ 61,000.00	\$ 843,000.00	\$ 789,912.72	\$ 831,767.43
General Income	\$ 57,737.78	\$ 66,747.17	\$ 938,428.83	\$ 929,394.81	\$ 922,252.69
Mission Income	\$ 14,321.51	\$ 4,175.00	\$ 58,925.00	\$ 62,465.03	\$ 59,603.98
Restricted Income	39,412.52	-	-	39,412.52	-
Expenses	\$ 250,296.93	\$ 102,256.34	\$ 1,003,603.66	\$ 1,078,513.34	\$ 929,487.43
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ (138,825.12)	\$ (31,334.17)	\$ (6,249.83)	\$ (47,240.98)	\$ 52,369.24
Building Maintenance Fund Contributions	\$ 2,445.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 39,750.00	\$ 60,665.57	\$ 38,726.98
Build Fund Balance	12,091.09				

What a month! Pledged giving was \$14K under budget again and remains \$53K under budget YTD which is also \$41.8 less than prior year at this time. July was a 3 pay period month which makes expenses higher. Then the boiler was paid from repair/maintenance account and building fund as well as a portion of out Memorials/Estates. In addition, new income accounts were added for VBS, Spoudazo, Youth Trips, Mobile Banquet which were just net accounts prior. As a result, income for the fiscal year for these accounts was moved to income and removed from expenses which then skews the income/expenses totals. In the end, July ended with a loss of \$138,825 due to the boiler costs. This in turn ends the fiscal year in the red \$47K. ELC had a tough month with labor costs ending with \$36K loss. **Reminder of the Budget Forum on September 20th and the Annual Meeting on September 27th. See you then!**

~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator



Target Giving... (as of 7/31/26) 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	\$3,380.71	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$2,737.51	Spoudazo	\$9,579.56
Technology	\$24.55	Good Samaritan	\$2,315.46	ELC Tuition Assistance	\$2,130.17
Church Home	\$1,911.78	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	Banquet Mobile Meal	\$12,451.22
Building Maint.	\$12,091.09	Quilt Ministry	\$3,611.68	Youth Trips	\$6,413.77
First Lutheran Youth	\$9,189.75	Children's WAM	\$1,875.24	VBS	\$4,019.39



Visitors & guests of FLC are invited to take the next step to membership by attending:

firstlutheran
CHURCH

EXPLORE

NEW MEMBER CLASS

CONSIDERING JOINING FLC?

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT CLASS:
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 | 5:30PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

You will learn about the history of FLC, hear the mission we strive to live out, meet the staff, and be introduced to ways you can plug into ministries at FLC. A meal will be served.

Sign up online or call the Church Office by Wednesday, September 30 to reserve your spot!



RECENT GRADS | COLLEGE STUDENTS
NEW MILITARY PERSONNEL

WE WANT TO BLESS OUR *young adults!*

The FLC Women want your child to stay connected to FLC with a special birthday gift!

INFORMATION NEEDED:

- CHILD'S NAME
- BIRTHDATE
- CURRENT ADDRESS
- FAMILY (HOME) ADDRESS
- YEAR IN SCHOOL OR MILITARY BRANCH

Scan the QR Code to fill out the form or email Gina at gina@flcfremont.org



STUDENTS NEED NOURISHMENT



HELP RESTOCK OUR CUPBOARDS!

DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE INDIVIDUALLY PACKED SNACKS & JUICE BOXES CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

FLC's youth groups are back in action, and our students need nourishment as they grow—body, mind, and spirit!

We nurture our students spiritually by teaching and learning through Scripture. At each youth gathering, we support their emotional growth by listening to them, encouraging them, and creating a safe place where they feel valued. Games and activities help them grow mentally, while snacks help fuel them physically!

Please help us fill the youth cupboards by donating non-perishable, individually packaged snacks. Some of the items we use throughout the year include: Juice boxes, fruit snacks, pop tarts, chips, crackers, cookies, and other packaged snacks. If you'd rather provide cheese sticks, yogurts, fruit, or any perishable items, please contact Gina DeBoer to assure these items are used in a timely manner and not wasted. Many thanks for your support in helping our youth grow in many ways!

FAITH. LIBATIONS. CONVERSATIONS.

For as long as people have debated theology, there's been a drink nearby—coffee, tea, beer, or bourbon. Martin Luther did it around his dining room table with colleagues, students, and politicians, often over his wife Katie's home-brewed ale. **Now First Lutheran is giving it a try.**

Join us for the first round of...

Brewed theology




Thursday, September 10



7:00pm



Green's Tavern

We'll gather around tables for a guided conversation on:

Defining Church.

Where is it? What is it? How do we find it?

GRANDPARENTS, GAMES, & GOODIES



Sunday, September 13

2:00pm - FLC Heritage Room

A time to laugh, connect, and enjoy a little friendly competition! Youth—grab your grandparents or church grandparents and join us for a fun afternoon of Bunco on Sunday, September 13, at 2:00 PM. There will be goodies, prizes, and plenty of fun for all ages! We hope to fill the tables in the Heritage Room and enjoy a wonderful afternoon together. Hope to see you there!