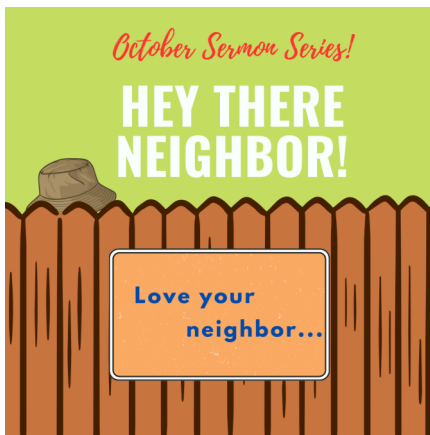


October 2024

# THE MESSENGER



What do Kimmy Gibbler, Wilson W. Wilson Jr., George Wilson, and Fred Mertz all have in common?

They are all famous tv neighbors. Kimmy Gibbler was the annoying neighbor on *Full House*. Wilson W. Wilson Jr. was Tim Taylor's wise neighbor on *Home Improvement*. Mr. George Wilson was Dennis the Menace's unfortunate neighbor. And Fred Mertz was married to Ethel, Lucy and Ricky's landlord neighbors.

How many of your neighbors can you name? What do you know about them? Where do they work? How many kids? What do they struggle with? What can you help them with?

Real-life neighborhoods don't really work like they do on tv. Cosmo Kramer isn't going to bust into your apartment and say something completely off the wall. Barney Rubble isn't always available to go bowling. Lenny and Squiggy aren't going to try to get you to go along with their crazy schemes.

Chances are you probably don't know your neighbors all that well. You might know some of them. Maybe they've even been inside your house. As this culture continues to move forward, we know less and less of our neighbors.

Jesus had a different idea about neighbors and it was just as difficult to comprehend two thousand years ago as it is today. Jesus wanted us to love our neighbors. And he considered everyone a neighbor, not just the one's that live near us.

For the month of October, we'll be focusing on the theme of *neighbors*. We'll look at the definition of neighbor that Jesus gives. We'll go back to the Old Testament book of Leviticus and see what God says about our neighbors. We'll even look at what we should do if our neighbor sins.

Sometimes we find it difficult to love our neighbors, especially if they're different from us. They might support the wrong presidential candidate. They might not look like the 'right' kind of person. Maybe their skin is a different color, or their culture is too different, or they raise their kids to be bilingual so they can be a contributing member of our community.

I know it's hard. God knows it's hard. Perhaps that's why the Bible spends so much time on the subject.

It's also important. That's why Jesus repeated it and taught it in different ways. That's why we're spending so much time on it.

You see, by loving our neighbor, we can do more good in the world - more than any presidential candidate. Don't wait for someone else to change the world. Let's do it together. Right now. Right here.

*You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (Leviticus 19:17-18)*

# Worship

## Sunday Morning Hospitality

Hospitality means to show care, love and a happy heart for those coming to worship. These practices are for every day, everywhere. FLC has created a church home for people to feel welcomed. We can reach people with smiles and handshakes. Join your church family in greeting, ushering or serving as a welcome center host or a communion server.

You can sign up on the FLC website or by calling the office.

Please contact Tami Hall at the church office with any questions.



## Sunday Worship each week at 8:45 & 10:45 am

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 8:45 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.

## Radio Broadcast sponsors

There are a few radio broadcast sponsor openings coming up soon. Please sign up on-line or contact the office if you are able to cover the \$160 cost of a radio broadcast of FLC's 8:45am Sunday service. Thank you!

## 2024 Election Results

Congrats to newly elected and thank you to all who on the ballot for your willingness to serve your church.

**New Council Members:** Mike Conrad, Andrew Fairhead, Julie Grimm, Tracey Vrba

**New Endowment Board Members:** Carol Nielsen, Dick Norenberg

**2025 Nominating Team:** Bob Beaver, Dave Millie, Trudy Tamke

Council Appointment of Kylie Coon was approved.

Thank you to the out-going elected leaders for their dedication and service:

**Council:** Lon Bohling, Diane Paseka, Matt Ridder, Dawn Koehlmoos

**Endowment Board:** Steve Pike, Brian Brodd

**Nominations Team:** Lon Bohling, Teresa Fauss, Sheri Wilberding, Andrew Olsen, Diane Paseka

The church council will elect its new officers at their October meeting.

## Giving thanks.....

**Thank You Mowers:** A BIG thank you to ALL who have volunteered their time this summer to help mow and trim the lawn. It takes volunteers to mow and trim by the building approximately 3 hours and those that volunteer to mow the outer field area approximately 8 hours. What a great gift of your time to the church!! Not only does this keep the church looking nice, it also saves the church approximately \$800-\$1000 per week in mowing costs. Thank you doesn't seem enough.

## Sunday Snow Touchups

We know it will eventually happen... snow will fall on a Sunday morning. We are in need of volunteers to help with keeping the entrances cleared of snow during services on Sunday mornings. This is a great service opportunity for service groups, families, or individuals. It would involve keeping the entrances cleared and salted after the snow removal company does their initial sweep. You can pick your own dates and sign up for a part or the whole morning! Sign up in the weekly e-news or on our website.





## O.W.L.S. (Older Wiser Loving Souls)

Join us for the kick-off to our Retiree “Youth Group” (O.W.L.S.). A potluck lunch on Wednesday, October 16 at noon will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to pass and join us to hear Pastor Greg’s call story and discuss what this new ministry might look like! Hope to see you there!



**The Chosen** discussion group will continue to meet in the Youth Room at noon and 6pm on Mondays. Deacon Rick will lead the discussion after the group watches an episode from Season 4 together. All are invited! The Chosen will NOT meet on Monday, Oct 7 & Oct 21.

**Dinner Groups** Kick-off Potluck will be Sunday, October 13, at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**Chick Flicks** will meet in on October 1, at 6:00pm, in the Youth Room.



Stop by before or after church at the colorful table in the hallway that is FILLED with wrapped shoe boxes, READY for you to take home that day. Then watch for more info the following Sundays on how to fill your boxes in a FUN, FULL, and PERSONAL way! Each box represents a child and you are not only sending a tangible gift to that child, it is opening doors for them to hear the GOOD NEWS of JESUS!

**Full boxes due November 17th**

## GOD & GAMES 4 GUYS & GALS

Young adults! This group is for you! If you are looking for a place to meet new people and hang out with people younger than your parents, join us on Sunday, October 27 at 6:30pm in Room 105. This will be a time of fellowship, games, Bible study, and more! Complete this [google form](#) or scan the QR code to share your interests so we can make this time enjoyable for everyone! Hope to see you there!



**TLC (Together Living with Cancer) Support Group** meets Tuesdays, October 8 and 22 at 6:30pm in the Youth Room.

**FLC First Monday Bible Study** will meet Monday, October 7, at 10:00am, at Judy Jorgensen’s home, 1320 Ruth Avenue. The group will be studying Chapter 3 of *Just Like Jesus* by Max Lucado. Janet Porter will be the co-hostess. All First Lutheran women are welcome.

**Men’s Study Group** meets on Saturday mornings at 8:30am in the Heritage Room.

**Faith Study Group** will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 10, in the Conference Room. Trudy Tamke will lead the lesson found in the September edition of *Gather* magazine.

**WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study** will meet at church on Wednesday, October 9, at 9:30am in the Heritage Room. Norma Moxness will lead the discussion on Chapter 2 of *Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado. New faces always welcome!

**FLC Quilters** will meet Wednesday, October 16, at 1:00pm to tie quilts for LWR.

## Operation Christmas Child—Kick off October 27th

For children around the world, a shoebox is often their very first gift. Given together with the Good News of Jesus Christ, it communicates God’s love to a boy or girl in need. So, it is important to make sure your gift is ...

**FUN**—includes a “wow” item and other quality toys

**FULL**—packed to the brim with additional school supplies and personal care items.

**PERSONALIZED**—prayed over and contains a note and photo, which are often the child’s favorite items!

# Mission and Outreach

See the many gifts God has given through His people.

## October Mission Focus: Habitat for Humanity



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Help a neighbor painting project. Come paint for Habitat on Saturday, October 12 from 9:30-11:30am. All ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \*All volunteers must fill out a Habitat waiver. RSVP to [Heidir@flcfermont.org](mailto:Heidir@flcfermont.org) to be part of the FLC painting team!

**RECYCLE FOR HABITAT**  
Bring in bags of your clean aluminum cans in October and we will take them to the Habitat Home Store to be recycled.  
**Make a positive impact on our environment  
AND help build homes**



FLC WINTER COAT DRIVE

### FLC Mobile Banquet Winter Coat Drive

Donations of coats, hats, gloves, and mittens can be dropped off at the FLC Office October-December. These items will be distributed with the Mobile Banquet meals the 2nd Thursday of each month. Children's sizes are the most desired, but all sizes are needed.

### Mobile Banquet:

The FLC mobile banquet will serve meals at Linden School on Thursday, October 10, from 5:30-6:30pm. Please consider helping make this possible with your donations of food items, money or time. It's easy, sign up on-line or call the office to offer your help!



### September Mission Support Report:

In September, we collected 5 bikes, 6 bike locks and \$150 in monetary donations for the Global Warriors program at Midland to assist international students with transportation. Thanks to all who helped us partner with Midland to show support and care for their students. From Global Warriors: Thank you from everyone! You should see the students when they come to pick up their bikes... It's like Christmas. They are always so excited and so grateful.

### August Mission Support Update:

The Fremont Area United Way was thrilled to receive a check for \$1,085 from FLC! Thanks to all who supported this summer ministry partner by participating with the Food Truck event, The FLC Market and additional monetary donations! We look forward to hosting the United Way Food Packing event in our Mission Center on October 24th & 25th.



global warriors  
CHANGING THE WORLD ONE LEADER AT A TIME



# Children and Youth

## Sunday School News

### Sunday School

Sunday school is off to a great start! We invite all children (ages 3-6th grade) to join in the fun at any time during the year. It's just under an hour of Bible lessons that help us dig into the "Heart of God." Don't miss the opportunity to learn, pray, and praise Him on Sunday mornings! Each month we also have a giving focus where children and adults alike learn more about ways to be a blessing to our community and world by sharing our gifts. In October we are asking kids to bring clean aluminum cans that we will add to the Habitat for Humanity Recycling collection.

## Confirmation News

- Sunday, October 6—Bible Sunday—all 3rd, 7th, and 8th graders will receive Bibles during worship.
- Wednesday, October 9—Confirmation class.
- Wednesday, October 23—Confirmation class.
- Wednesday, October 30—Service project—LWR kit packing in the Mission Center.
- Sign up for Confirmation Remind by texting @flccon2024 to the number 81010

## Middle School News

- Wednesday, October 2—Trip to Camp Fontanelle for fellowship, corn maze, bonfire, etc.
- Friday, October 11-Sunday, October 13—Elevate Retreat at Camp Rivercrest
- Wednesday, October 16—Meet in Rm 105
- Wednesday, October 30—Service project—LWR kit packing in the Mission Center.
- Sign up for MS Remind by texting @flcms2024 to the number 81010

## High School News

- Wednesday, October 2—Trip to Camp Fontanelle for fellowship, corn maze, bonfire, etc.
- Wednesday, October 9—Meet in Youth Room 7:00-9:00pm
- Friday, October 11-Sunday, October 13—Elevate Retreat at Camp Rivercrest
- Wednesday, October 16—Study break + Jesus Jams + pizza + snacks + board games
- Wednesday, October 23—Meet in Youth Room 7:00-9:00pm
- Wednesday, October 30—Meet in Youth Room, bring a carving pumpkin for the devo.



Middle School and High School students are invited to attend the Elevate Retreat at Camp Rivercrest from Friday, October 11-Sunday, October 13th. The cost is \$135 and this includes transportation, meals, lodging, Bible studies, and activities. Students are asked to bring a snack to share. Deadline to register is Wednesday, October 2. Use this link <https://forms.gle/zC7RvU2YSet3V3D99> or QR code to sign up. Email [qinad@flcfremont.org](mailto:qinad@flcfremont.org) to with any questions.



### BIBLE 101

We will do a Bible 101 workshop, **Sunday, October 13, from 9:45-10:45 am.** Parents, grandparents and/or a spiritual mentor are encouraged to meet in Room 138 with their third grader. Students and their Bible partner/s will have the opportunity to learn how to use their Bible and practice using it.



# Early Learning Center



The first few months of school seemed to fly by and now we're off and running!

September was the month for getting acquainted. We're getting to know the routine, our school and each other. We're making new friends and learning how to get along in our classroom.

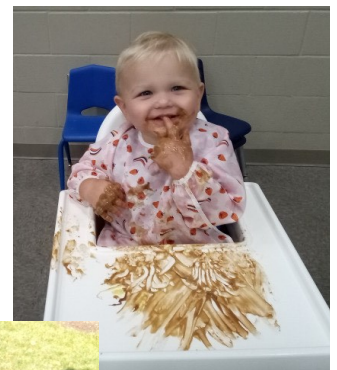
Last month we had a lot of fun playing with different tactile materials that offered a sensory experience as well. We focused on apples for a week and got to taste test all kinds of different apples. One week we focused on our families and brought in a poster of our family members. The kids had a lot of fun telling their friends about their family.

We've been focusing on the children's interests and have some great themes planned for the future months. Our themes coming up in October are Fire Safety, Pumpkins, and Halloween.



## ELC FUNDRAISER

Plan supper at Chipotle on Tuesday, October 1 from 4-8pm and support the ELC. Be sure to mention the ELC when paying your bill to assure 25% of the sale goes to the ELC. Use code 2C7XN6X when ordering on-line. Thanks for your support!



## FLC Women of the ELCA

**The Quilters:** The quilters favorite Sunday is coming up. Put October 27 on your calendars so you do not miss seeing all 304 quits on display. The quits will then be boxed up and sent to Minneapolis where they will be processed and send some where in the world, as needed. A BIG THANK YOU goes to everyone who donated fabric and sheets and to everyone who spent hours sewing.

### Many Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our projects for Lutheran World Relief. We could not have done this without First Lutheran's support. If anyone still wants to give soap, it is needed and will be collected until end of October. Confirmation students will pack the LWR kits on October 30 and we will give share totals next month!!

Again thank you and Praise the Lord!!  
The First Lutheran women team



### Women of the ELCA Autumn Renewal

The event will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 9:00am-3:00pm, at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island. The cost is \$20. Please contact Eileen Thornburg (bthornburg@neb.rr.com) by October 1 to register.

**Save the Date**—The First Lutheran Women's Christmas Program will be Thursday, December 5, 7:00 P.M. in the worship area. Jan Schiferl of Fordyce, NE will be presenting the program. It will be a great way to begin the Advent season. You will not want to miss it.

# Council Highlights - September

- Church leadership appreciates all the positive feedback from the changes made to the church service and spaces.
- The council thanked all of the outgoing council members for all of their hard work through the past three years. There have been lots of changes during their time on council and many challenges have been worked through in that time thanks to their dedication and discernment.
- Coming soon will be new signage on the church van and bus - hoping that this will help in our mission to spread the word to the Fremont community about First Lutheran Church!

Respectfully Submitted by Derek Fey, Secretary of FLC Council    \*\* Full minutes are available upon request

## Monthly Financial Report

	August Actual	August Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 40,220.33	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 775,000.00	\$ 806,424.69	\$ 740,487.26
General Income	\$ 88,636.20	\$ 58,706.66	\$ 828,765.00	\$ 917,920.90	\$ 829,449.54
Mission Income	\$ 4,119.34	\$ 4,004.16	\$ 57,050.00	\$ 95,382.09	\$ 68,786.62
Expenses	\$ 91,594.37	\$ 81,134.50	\$ 1,038,815.00	\$ 951,833.31	\$ 981,881.60
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ 1,161.17	\$ (18,423.68)	\$ (153,000.00)	\$ 61,469.68	\$ (83,645.44)
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 1,290.00			\$ 37,457.67	\$ 205,751.81
<b>Build Fund Balance</b>	<b>35,687.28</b>				

Although pledged giving was under budget for August, the fiscal year ended \$31K over budget. FLC ended the year in the black which was much better than anticipated thanks to increased giving and cost savings with the Pastor share and transition to a permanent Lead Pastor. Maintenance/Building Fund continues to grow for large unexpected costs such HVAC, roof replacement, and deductibles. ELC will end with a loss for the fiscal year so budget adjusted. Although the new fiscal year is budgeted for a loss, with the re-engagement and support of the entire congregation, the hope is to return to a balanced budget. ~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator

**Targeted Giving...** (as of 8/31/24) 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	\$8,451.65	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$6,619.13	Children's WAM	\$604.09
Technology	\$3,332.41	Good Samaritan	\$2,790.46	Spoudazo	\$5,499.59
Church Home	\$7,568.96	Radio Broadcast	\$4,451.00	Zoe!	\$2,693.07
Building Maint.	\$35,687.28	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	ELC Tuition Assistance	\$660.70
Sunday School	\$2,933.58	Quilt Ministry	\$3,997.94	Banquet Mobile Meal	\$7,580.20
First Lutheran Youth	\$3,705.40				

# Planning...Giving...Growing...

You finally “got to it” and created an estate plan that outlines your final wishes on how you would like your assets shared upon your death. You’ve taken a significant step in ensuring your wishes are honored and your loved ones are cared for. You and your financial advisor have determined what financial vehicles will best manage your wishes. Occasionally reviewing this plan will be important to make sure any changes in your financial situation are captured and there have been no changes to your list of beneficiaries. You have done the hard work! However, your work is not yet finished.

The final step in estate planning is communicating the details of that plan with family members or charitable organizations you have listed as beneficiaries. Why is it important to share this information with those designated as beneficiaries?

By sharing with loved ones your final wishes, this will help in reducing stress and avoid confusion and conflict. Communicating your plan will help family members better understand your wishes and accept your decisions.

By knowing ahead of time your final wishes, your loved ones can make informed decisions during this stressful time or make medical decisions if necessary.

By being transparent about your estate plan can prevent misunderstandings among family members. This can also ensure your wishes are carried out as intended.

Why is it important to share my plan details with those charitable organizations I have listed in my estate plan?

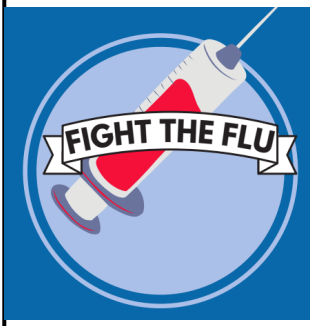
Charitable organizations may want to show their appreciation and recognize you for your contribution while you are still alive. This maybe done in a variety of ways from a letter of appreciation to donor recognition awards, dinners, etc.

Whether you designate a percentage of your estate or a certain dollar amount depends on the organization. In many cases, such as First Lutheran Endowment, just notifying them of your intention is all that is required.

If you have included First Lutheran Endowment or First Lutheran Church in your estate plan we encourage you to let the church know by contacting Pastor Greg or Wendy Grosse. First Lutheran respects your privacy and will not share this information without your permission.

### Endowment Board

Barry Benson, Chris Coffman, Brian Brodd, Wendy Olson, Jeremy Hansen, Kent Speicher, Steve Pike



**FLU SHOTS at FLC**

Three Rivers will host a flu immunization clinic at FLC on Sunday, October 6, from 8:00 -11:00am. Bring a copy of your insurance card if you would like to bill your insurance. Out of pocket cost is \$45.

## 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 Donna Hillrichs

### September Pastoral Acts:

9-11-24 Funeral—Carson Day

9-22-24 Baptism—Thomas Allen Wayne Graves, son of Sean and Jennifer Graves

9-25-24 Baptisms—Bill, Colin, and Elliot King

