



THE MESSENGER

Ash Wednesday
March 5

Details
Inside

Mobile Banquet
March 13

Pajama Sunday
March 16

When I was in high school, I was fortunate enough to be a part of our swing choir. We competed against other schools and, in my four years of high school, we never lost a competition. Our school had the reputation of being very strong in the music program – vocal and instrumental. One year, when our football team was horrendous, we would cheer about how our team could sing better than the opponent's team. Yeah, that doesn't really inspire a football team to greatness. We would work very hard on our shows. We spent hours and hours pounding parts until the songs seemed effortless. We spent hours and hours working on the choreography. I think maybe one or two of us ever had dance lessons. The rest of us had to learn everything from scratch. The choreography had to seem as effortless as the music. We just had to do it all together; we couldn't think about it, we just had to do it. No counting the steps. No looks of confusion. Smile! You are having fun! Trust what you've learned. Trust the people around you.

As long as you notice, and have to count the steps, you are not yet dancing but only learning to dance. A good shoe is a shoe you don't notice. Good reading becomes possible when you need not consciously think about eyes, or light, or print, or spelling. The perfect church service would be the one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God.

C.S. Lewis in Mere Christianity

Have you ever wondered why our worship services are the way they are? What's the deal with liturgy? Sharing the peace? Confession and forgiveness? Who came up with this order? and why?

During Lent, our Sundays (and Ash Wednesday and Holy Week) will be focused on understanding worship. Everything we do, we do for a reason. Most of it comes directly from the Bible. For example, the Sharing of the Peace comes right from the Gospel of Matthew and the Sermon on the Mount. It's not a time to greet those around you, you did that in the fellowship hall. It is a time to make peace and mend relationships with those you are worshipping with (not just the people in front of and behind you). The proper time for sharing the peace is before we come to the altar.

Worship and dancing are a lot alike. They both involve movement and flow. They are both choreographed and interpretive. And like C.S. Lewis said, if you counting the steps, you're not really dancing or worshipping.

*Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.
(Psalm 115:1)*

*Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to
him with tambourine and lyre.
(Psalm 149:3)*

Let's learn this dance called worship and this song called praise and remember it is to God's glory we gather together.

Pastor Greg

WORSHIP

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 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. ****Regular "Pray-lude" Worship will continue following Lent.**

Lent/Holy Week Schedule

Wednesday, March 5: Ash Wednesday

Drive Through Ashes: 7:00-8:30am, 11:30-1:00pm
Lenten Meal: 5:00-6:00pm
Worship Service: 6:15pm

Wednesdays, March 12-April 9: Lent Meals & Services

Lenten Meal: 5:00-6:00pm
Lenten Service: 6:15pm

Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday

Worship Services: 8:45am & 10:45am
Family Activities: 9:45-10:40am
ELC & Sunday School Sing @ 10:45am

Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday

Worship Service: 7:00pm
****First Communion celebrated with students**

Friday, April 18: Good Friday

Worship Service: 7:00pm

Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday (No Sunday School)

Worship Services: 8:45am & 10:45am

Our Lenten Offering & Meal proceeds will go to the **Lutheran Disaster Response**. LDR collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the United States and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. Suggested minimum donation for Lenten Meals: \$8/adult, \$5/youth.

WORSHIP QUEST

a journey to EASTER

Lenten Meals

Wednesday Lenten Meals are served each week from 5:00-6:00pm from Ash Wednesday (March 5) to April 9.

3/5: Swedish Meatballs	3/26: Chicken & Noodles
3/12: Spaghetti	4/2: Taco Bar
3/19: Sloppy Joes	4/9: Baked Ziti

****Meals are subject to change**

Help is needed each week to setup, serve, clean up, and bring treats. This is a great way to fellowship and serve at the same time! The signup is available from the Ministry Opportunities button on our website, or you can contact Tami in the Church Office to see where help is needed.

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 Dean & Janie Baugh, Shawn Brown, Elaine Reber, Alan Thomsen, and Lyn Robart.

Prayers of peace for the family and friends of Judy Ellis, for Dave & Sue Strong on the loss of his mother, Edith Strong; Lucy & Dwayne Klocke on the loss of their son, Doug; for Laura Brodd, Brian & Pam Brodd, and Daryl & Ann Brodd on the loss of their husband and father, Bob Brodd; for the Mauer and Svatora families on the loss of their brother and uncle, Mark Arnold; and for the family and friends of Elaine Reber.

DISCIPLESHIP



O.W.L.S.
Older Wiser Loving Souls

Fremont High CTE Building Tour!

THURSDAY, MARCH 13
11:00AM | FREMONT HIGH CTE

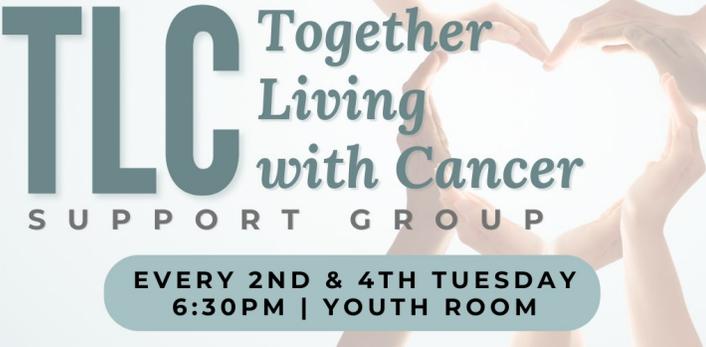
Tour the CTE Building then go out for lunch together. (Everyone will cover their own lunch) Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Gina.

Men's Bible Study will continue studying the Gospel of Luke. They will meet every Saturday in March at 8:30am in Room 122. The group invites all men to join this study.

Fantasy Football, Faith, and Fellowship continues to meet on Tuesdays at 7:00pm in the Heritage Room.

Rix Study Group meets Sunday mornings at 9:45am in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion of Max Lucado's book, *Unshakable Hope*.

Sunday Study with Kris Lindgren will start a new book, "The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi," on Sunday, March 9, at 9:45am in the Heritage Room. All are welcome to join in our discussions.



TLC Together Living with Cancer
SUPPORT GROUP

EVERY 2ND & 4TH TUESDAY
6:30PM | YOUTH ROOM

TLC (Together Living with Cancer) Support Group meets Tuesdays, March 11 and 25 at 6:30pm in the Youth Room. If you know anyone 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. Reach out to Gina (ginad@flcfremont.org) for more information.

FLC Women of the ELCA

FLC First Monday Bible Study will meet at the home of Judy Jorgensen, 1320 Ruth Avenue, Monday, March 3 at 10:00am. The group will study Chapter 7 of *Just Like Jesus* by Max Lucado. Jan Divis will serve as co-hostess. All FLC women are welcome!

Chick Flicks will meet on Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00pm in the FLY Room.

Join the **FLC Quilters** on Wednesday, March 19, at 1:00pm, as we tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief. No experience or sewing experience needed. If you are interested in learning more about quilting opportunities at FLC, contact Gina.

If you would like to help with the quilting ministry outside of the Wednesday tying days, please let Gina know. We are looking for a couple people to do odd jobs (non-sewing jobs) before and after the tying days.



WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, March 12 at 9:30am in the Heritage Room. Sherie Ebers will lead the study on Chapter 5 of Max Lucado's book, *Anxious for Nothing*.

Faith Circle will meet at 7:00pm on Thursday, March 13, in the Conference Room. Evelyn Eldridge will be leading the lesson.



of the **Women ELCA**

WELCA Leadership Meeting

Wednesday, March 12
Library | 11:00am

WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Leadership Team is meeting on Wednesday, March 12, at 11:00am in the library. ****WELCA Spring Gathering in Lincoln has been cancelled.**



Star Crosses — A reminder to all First Lutheran households to turn off your star crosses from Ash Wednesday (March 5) through Lent. On Easter Sunday, April 20, we will re-light our star-crosses to show that we are shining bright with Christ's light!

MISSION & OUTREACH

PAJAMA Sunday

MARCH 16

Join us for Pajama Sunday in your church appropriate pj's in remembrance of when COVID started.

We are collecting pajamas and board books for our **March Ministry Partner, Dodge County Head Start!**




Please consider grabbing a tag from the Fellowship Hall to help out!

March Ministry Partner:



Head Start We are excited to announce our partnership with Dodge County Head Start in March. This local non-profit provides vital programs that support the comprehensive development of children from birth to age 5.

On Sunday, March 2, Director Kristen Fagan will join us in worship at both services to share a brief overview of the impactful work they are doing in the Fremont area.

In addition to their core programs, Dodge County Head Start offers center-wide activities that foster community and empower stronger families. This spring, they will host a "Reading Together" event where families can come in their pajamas and enjoy reading together. First Lutheran can support this wonderful initiative by donating new pajamas and board books. Please consider picking up a tag in the fellowship hall to get involved. We have also created an [Amazon Wish List](#) for ease of shopping, or you can make a monetary contribution by using the link at www.flcfremont.org or scanning the QR code for giving and we will purchase items on your behalf.

Thank you for your continued support of our community partnerships.



Mobile Banquet: The FLC Mobile Banquet will be delivering 250+ meals to Linden Elementary, LifeHouse, and ASPIRE on **Thursday, March 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 have your donations to the church kitchen by NOON on March 12. We are collecting pairs of socks as our extra item for this month's Mobile Banquet. Please considering donating a pair or two (*children's sizes preferred*).

2025 MOBILE BANQUET

UPCOMING EXTRA DONATION ITEMS

APRIL Extra Item(s): EASTER EGGS & CANDY	MAY Extra Item(s): BATH & BEACH TOWELS	JUNE Extra Item(s): FLIP FLOPS
SEPT Extra Item(s): MINI PUMPKINS	AUG Extra Item(s): KITCHEN TOWELS & DISHCLOTHS	JULY Extra Item(s): SUNSCREEN
OCT Extra Item(s): HALLOWEEN CANDY	NOV Extra Item(s): COATS, SCARVES, HATS, & GLOVES	DEC Extra Item(s): FULL SIZE CANDY BARS

****COATS, SCARVES, HATS, & GLOVES WILL BE COLLECTED FROM OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER!**

CAMP CAROL JOY HOLLING

HELP FLC SPONSOR A CAMP COUNSELOR

WE HAVE CURRENTLY RAISED \$1102 OF OUR \$4500 GOAL

WAYS TO DONATE:



-GO TO OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.FLCFREMONT.ORG/EVENTS

-WRITE A CHECK
DESIGNATED TO CJH

Learn more about summer camp 2025 @ CarolJoyHolling.org

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Save The Date! – ELC & Sunday School



Sunday School and ELC students will sing during worship on Palm Sunday, April 13, at the 10:45am service. Fun, interactive, family Holy Week and Easter activities will be offered during the Sunday School hour, 9:45-10:40am. More information to come.

Middle School News

- **Ash Wednesday, March 5**— Supper at church, Worship at 6:15pm, After worship until 8:30pm: *Woodlawn*—Week 3
- **Wednesday, March 19**, 7-8:30pm *Woodlawn*—Week 4
- Sign up for MS Remind by texting @flcms2024 to the number 81010

High School News

- **Ash Wednesday, March 5**, Supper at Church, Worship at 6:15pm, After worship until 9:00pm, “What is LENT?”
- **Wednesday, March 12**, NO HS FLYs
- **Wednesday, March 19**, 7:00-9:00pm *MOOD*—Week 1
- **Wednesday, March 26**, Serve/Clean Up Lent Meals 4:45-6:15pm
- **Wednesday, March 26**, 7:00-9:00pm *MOOD*—Week 2

Confirmation News

- **Ash Wednesday, March 5** — Supper at Church, Worship at 6:15pm
- **Wednesday, March 12**, 7:00-8:30pm Class
- **Wednesday, March 26**, Serve/Clean Up Lent Meals 4:45-6:15pm
- **Wednesday, March 26**, 7:00-8:30pm-Class

Sunday School News

Kids Pre-school through 6th grade continue to meet in Room 105 for Sunday School opening at 9:45am. After learning some new praise songs, hearing about our story for the day, watching a short video, praying together, and blessing each other we head to separate rooms to meet with our classes. Using the Dig-In curriculum, in March students will learn more from Paul about how God is miraculous, encouraging, and our protector. We will finish up the month by learning how the Armor of God gives us strength. Friends are always welcome in Sunday School. Parents can join us for the opening too if you'd like. Together, we want to plant seeds of faith in the lives of our kids and help them know how much God loves them!

SAVE the DATE

FIRST LUTHERAN
VBS 2025

TRUE NORTH
Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

JULY 27-30 | 5:30-8:15PM
JULY 31 - VBS WRAP UP & FOOD TRUCK EVENT

SAVE THE DATE — 2025 True North VBS! FLC will be hosting Vacation Bible School again this summer! VBS will be for PS-6th graders at FLC and in the community. It will be held July 27-30 from 5:30-8:15pm with the closing program on July 31. A meal will be served each night for participants and volunteers. Students will get to learn about trusting Jesus when we wonder, feel alone, feel powerless, need hope, and need help. Through games, crafts, storytelling, and songs, students will experience the love of Jesus and why we need Jesus in our lives. Mark your calendars, it is sure to be a fun week for all!

How can you support VBS?

Planning and preparation has begun! We will use the True North curriculum, teaching kids to trust Jesus in this wild world. We are excited to offer this ministry to our families and children in the Fremont area. A successful VBS needs many volunteers. We will be looking for people to prep & serve meals, lead outdoor games, act out the Bible story, lead a small group of kids from station to station, decorate, lead crafts, prep all the supplies, and more!

****True North Planning Meeting** — Anyone with any interest in helping plan, prepare, serve food, decorate, lead kids, advertise, or help during Vacation Bible School is encouraged to attend a VBS planning meeting on Monday, March 10 (6:00pm). The meeting will not be more than one hour (6:00-7:00pm). We will discuss work groups, meals, decorating, ideas for crafts, etc. Middle school and high school students are encouraged to volunteer as well. Contact Gina if you are interested in helping with VBS or have ideas of how to make this a meaningful week.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



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 & respect for our peers. We have learned about friendship, rockets, valentine's day, and how to keep our teeth healthy. Students also showed that they knew what foods were healthy and beneficial for our teeth and discussed what foods were unhealthy and could damage our 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!

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



We're Hiring!
FULL TIME
INFANT & TODDLER
TEACHERS



We're Hiring!
We're looking for passionate, caring, and dedicated **Infant and Toddler Teachers** to join our team! If you have a love for working with young children, fostering their

growth, and creating a nurturing environment, we want to hear from you!

Responsibilities:

- * Provide a safe, engaging, and developmentally appropriate learning environment for infants and toddlers.
- * Plan and implement creative activities that promote cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- * Build strong, positive relationships with children and their families.

Qualifications:

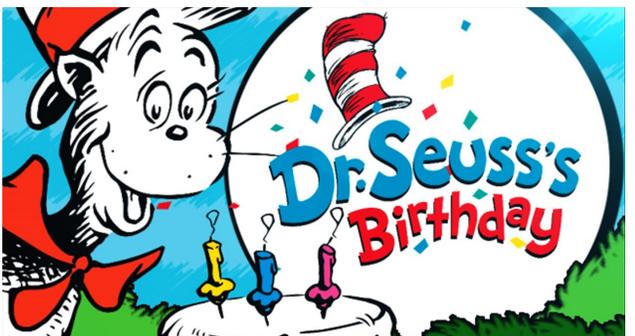
- * Experience working with infants and toddlers.
- * A caring and patient attitude.
- * Early Childhood Education background preferred.

If you're ready to make a difference in the lives of young children, apply to Mindy today with your resume at mindy@flcfremont.org.

2025-26 PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

FEBRUARY 3RD
OPEN ENROLLMENT

Contact Mindy Olson for registration
mindy@flcfremont.org
402.721.2959

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – FEBRUARY

February FLC Council Highlights

- We are 1/4 of the way to our goal of donations for Camp Carol Joy Holling Camp
- Vitality Initiative held first meeting on Sunday - in collaboration with the Synod and other congregations will be creating a vision for First Lutheran Church of Fremont
- Mission Center sound system has been repaired!

Respectfully Submitted by Derek Fey, FLC Council Secretary

***Full minutes are available upon request*

****2024 Giving Statements** have been sent out. If you have not received yours, please let Wendy in the office know.

Monthly Financial Report

	January Actual	January Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 148,078.25	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 431,695.18	\$ 402,812.08
General Income	\$ 154,756.50	\$ 69,520.00	\$ 424,440.00	\$ 474,449.17	\$ 439,466.76
Mission Income	\$ 4,027.00	\$ 4,004.16	\$ 22,520.88	\$ 37,596.50	\$ 52,569.37
Expenses	\$ 99,319.96	\$ 95,455.34	\$ 412,038.62	\$ 433,755.76	\$ 392,617.35
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ 59,463.54	\$ (21,931.18)	\$ 34,922.26	\$ 78,289.91	\$ 99,418.78
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 4,095.00			\$ 18,195.00	\$ 19,817.16
Build Fund Balance	46,332.52				

January pledged giving was drastically stronger than last year so it compensated for December being lower than other years. Pledged giving has exceeded budget YTD by \$43K but is \$29K lower than last year at this time. January ended with a profit vs a budgeted loss. YTD we continue to see a positive bottom line that has exceeded budget although it is \$20K lower than last year. We are seeing increased RMDs for this time of year which is always a nice boost to the bottom line. February has started strong. There were some **unbudgeted** HVAC issues in December that will produce some large maintenance and repair costs in the coming month. With all the exciting changes and additions happening, we will continue to transition accounts to better accommodate and track these changes for next year's budget.

~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator



Targeted Giving... (as of 1/31/25) 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	\$10,045.13	First Lutheran Youth	\$4,183.20	Children's WAM	\$ 5,866.65
Technology	\$2,814.66	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$5,496.63	Spoudazo	\$5,795.87
Church Home	\$7,546.93	Good Samaritan	\$2,515.46	Zoe!	\$2,993.07
Building Maint.	\$46,332.52	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	ELC Tuition Assistance	\$1,210.14
Sunday School	\$2,933.58	Quilt Ministry	\$3,719.07	Banquet Mobile Meal	\$7,056.17



DROP-IN
PICKLEBALL
EVERY THURSDAY
6:30-8:30PM | MISSION CENTER

No experience or sign up necessary. Games will be played as people arrive and leave. This is a **FREE** ministry. If you'd like to donate towards another net and a couple more balls and paddles, please contact Gina (ginad@flcfremont.org).

First Lutheran Church | 3200 E. Military Ave | Fremont, NE 68025

Drop-In Pickleball FLC will continue to host drop-in pickleball on Thursday nights from 6:30-8:30pm. No experience needed. This open court style pickleball is perfect for those learning the game, wanting to get out on a cold winter night, or needing some fellowship with fellow pickleballers! Teams are created and rotate throughout the night. Balls and paddles are provided, but you may bring your own if you choose. Hope to see you there!



Join the **CELEBRATION!**
Bob Beaver's
80TH BIRTHDAY
Open House
SATURDAY, MARCH 15
1:00-4:00PM
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH | FELLOWSHIP HALL



CAKE & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED. CARD SHOWER.
IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND AND WOULD LIKE TO SEND A CARD, PLEASE SEND THEM TO BOB BEAVER
1231 RUTH AVE, FREMONT NE 68025

EXPLORE



firstlutheran
 CHURCH

Considering joining FLC?
 Sign up for **EXPLORE**.



Sunday, March 2
5:30pm
Fellowship Hall

EXPLORE (New Members) Class — If you are interested in learning more about joining First Lutheran Church, please join us for the next Explore FLC class on Sunday, March 2, at 5:30pm. After enjoying a meal together, we will discuss who FLC is, how we got to where we are, and where God is leading us. Sign up on our website www.flcfremont.org/events.

We have updated our church office hours!
 We will now be closing at 4:00pm starting
 March 1, 2025.



NEW OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:00am - 4:00pm

First Lutheran Church | 3200 E. Military Ave, Fremont NE
 402-721-2959 | www.flcfremont.org



MARCH 2025
Madness FUN!

FLC is hosting a friendly, for fellowship only, March Madness bracket (no money or gambling involved). We will use the ESPN app to manage our brackets.

Scan the QR Code to join the FLC group. Brackets are available March 16 & need to be completed by March 20 before noon. Contact Gina for the password to join the "FLC March Madness FUN" group or with any questions.