



THE MESSENGER

WORSHIP QUEST

a journey to easter

**Power Through
Disaster
Mobile Banquet**
April 10
Details
Inside

**Holy Week
& Easter**
April 17-20

**Affirmation
Of Baptism**
April 27

Several years ago, I realized that vowing each and every year to spread fertilizer and weed killer on my lawn, according to the directions and schedule of the manufacturer, was just a lie I told myself. I started each spring with great intentions, but then life happens and I would miss the second round of whatever it was I was supposed to spread. And then the third. And then the lawn looked worse than it did last year. And then I vowed I would do better next year. You get the picture.

I finally gave in and hired someone to do it.

But then my lawn looked horrible. When you hire someone to spread weed killer on your lawn, you know what happens? The weeds die. If your lawn is weeds, and they die, there is nothing left. There were huge dead patches and bare spots. Our lawn was big; we had a full-size empty lot on the side of our house. Big brown spots on a big lawn are not easily hidden. That first year was rough.

But the second year was better. And the third.

I also realized something else, when you focus on the weeds, all you see is weeds.

When you focus on mistakes, all you see is mistakes.

When you focus on faults, all you see is faults.

When you focus on imperfections, all you see is imperfections.

When you focus on the negative, all you see is the negative.

The Pharisees, who focused on enforcing the Jewish law, only saw violations of the law.

When you focus on the law, you miss the grace.

When you focus on the way things should be, you miss what could be.

As we approach Easter, our focus, rightfully, belongs on our sin. It is our sin that brings us to the Cross. It was sin that brought Moses to the mountain to get the 10 Commandments. And when we focus on sin, all we see is sin – mine, yours, everyone's. It is our sin that needs our attention. Your neighbor's sin needs your neighbor's attention, not your attention.

Easter changes our focus. We go from the ugly horror of the cross to a joy-filled sunrise, a surprise-filled garden, a hope-filled world, and a promise fulfilled.

When we focus on joy, we are filled with joy.

When we focus on hope, we are filled with hope.

When we focus on grace, we are filled with grace.

When we focus on mercy, we are filled with mercy.

When we focus on love, we are filled with love.

So where is your focus? Do you see crabgrass, clover, and dandelions? Or do you see daffodils, tulips, and lilacs?

Do you see the pain and suffering of the cross? Or do you see the grace and glory of the empty tomb?

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

(Romans 8:18)

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

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




Lenten Meals

Lenten Meals are served each Wednesday from 5:00-6:00pm through April 9.

4/2: Taco Bar 4/9: Baked Ziti

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 sign-up 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.

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.

 **Star Crosses** — A reminder to all First Lutheran households to re-light your star crosses on Easter Sunday, April 20, to show that we are shining bright with Christ's light!

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, Lorna Knudsen, Lyn Robart, Dennis, & Mary Jean Hively.

Prayers of peace for the family and friends of Elaine Reber; for Jason and Tammy Stinemates on the loss of his father, Fred; for Rich Ray and family on the loss of his father, Dean; for Cory & Becky Hull and family on the loss of Cory's mother, Kelly Hull; and for the family and friends of Doris Schroeder.

March Pastoral Acts: 3-28-25 — Gail Feye Funeral

DISCIPLESHIP



Have you ever wondered about your family's history and where you come from? Join OWLS on Wednesday, April 30, at Noon for a potluck luncheon and welcome guest speaker, Christie Johnson, who is a professional genealogist researcher/organizer.

"Start Your Genealogy Today," is a basic one-hour presentation designed to introduce you to the exciting world of genealogy and provide the foundational tools and resources to help you begin your journey into your family's past. Whether you're just a beginner or need a jumpstart, this class will guide you through the initial steps and equip you with the resources to continue your genealogical journey.



TLC (Together Living with Cancer) Support Group meets Tuesdays, April 8 and 22 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@flcremont.org) for more information.

Men's Bible Study will continue studying the Gospel of Luke. They will meet every Saturday in April 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. Current study ends on Tuesday, April 22.

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*.



Upon request, we will be opening up the quilting room EVERY Wednesday at 1:00pm for those interested in helping with this ministry. The 3rd Wednesday of each month will remain as the "official quilt tying day." Other Wednesdays will provide opportunities for people to cut backs, iron quilt tops, prep quilts for tying and more. As always, quilters love donations of cotton fabric and gently used or new cotton sheets. Drop and donations off at the front desk. Many thanks for your generosity.

***NEW:** An evening Quilt Tying opportunity will be offered on Tuesday, April 29 from 6:30-8:00pm

FLC Women of the ELCA

FLC First Monday Bible Study will meet at the home of Judy Jorgensen, 1320 Ruth Avenue, Monday, April 7 at 10:00am. The group will study Chapter 8 of *Just Like Jesus* by Max Lucado. Carol Bohling will serve as co-hostess. All FLC women are welcome!

Chick Flicks will meet on Tuesday, April 1 at 6:00pm in the FLY Room.

WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, April 9 at 9:30am in the Heritage Room. Norma Moxness will lead the study on Chapter 6 of Max Lucado's book, *Anxious for Nothing*.

Faith Circle will meet on Thursday, April 10, in the Conference Room at 7:00pm. Jenny Oerman will be leading the lesson.



Sunday Study with Kris Lindgren will continue studying, "The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi," on Sunday mornings at 9:45am in the Heritage Room. All are welcome to join in our discussions.



Pizza & Projects! APRIL 9 | NOON

JOIN THE OWLS FOR A PIZZA LUNCH & INSTRUCTION ON PAPER CARD MAKING! EACH PARTICIPANT WILL GO HOME WITH 3 HANDMADE CARDS. ALL FOOD & SUPPLIES PROVIDED. COST IS \$5 PER PERSON. SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME DESK OR WITH GINA.

MISSION & OUTREACH

POWER THROUGH DISASTER

APRIL 10 | 5:30PM
YMCA & MEADOWBROOK

FLC EXTRA LARGE MOBILE BANQUET

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY POWER THROUGH DISASTER ONE MEAL AT A TIME.

EXTRA ITEMS: CEREAL & BREAKFAST BARS

VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED!

400+ MEALS!



Double Mobile Banquet:

Due to the recent hardships from the blizzard last week, we have decided to help "Power Through Disaster!" On Thursday, April 10, from 5:30-6:30pm, in addition to delivering 250+ meals to the YMCA, LifeHouse, and ASPIRE, we will also be delivering 200+ meals to Meadowbrook so those recovering from power outages can get a warm meal. 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 Wednesday, April 9.

April Power Project: The March blizzard affected the entire community and surrounding areas by causing damage and power outages. Many in our community are still without power so we decided the help "Power Through Disaster" by doing a month long power project!

Those without power have lost all food in their refrigerators and freezers. We are collecting cereals and different kinds of breakfast bars to help out! Let's pull together to help those in our community who need support!

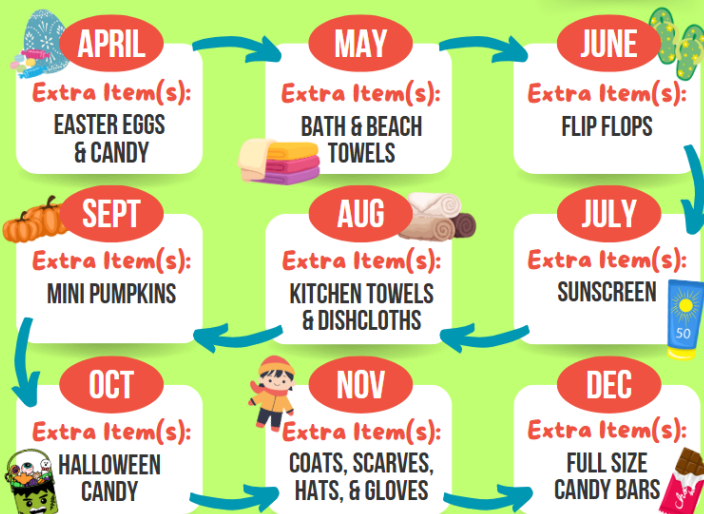
APRIL POWER PROJECT



Help those in our community who have lost food during the power outages by donating cereal and different kinds of breakfast bars. Let's power through disaster together!

2025 MOBILE BANQUET

UPCOMING EXTRA DONATION ITEMS



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

LWR SCHOOL KITS MATERIAL NEEDED!

EVERY YEAR, 200 BOOK BAGS ARE MADE FOR LWR SCHOOL KITS AND MATERIALS ARE NEEDED TO COMPLETE THESE!



ITEMS NEEDED:

- CORDUROY
- LIGHTWEIGHT DENIM
- COTTON CLOTHES
- COTTON T-SHIRTS (SIZE: LARGE OR XL)
- (DUCK) TWILL
- FLANNEL MATERIAL
- BATH/HAND TOWELS
- BABY CLOTHES
- COTTON CLOTHES-LINE



SCAN CODE BELOW TO GIVE ONLINE!

MATERIAL & MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED. ALL DONATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH.

THANK YOU FROM THE LWR COMMITTEE!
 QUESTIONS? CONTACT LUCY KLOCKE (402-237-2602),
 EVELYN ELDRIDGE (402-980-4592), OR PAM SPEVAK (402-719-5595)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Save The Date! – ELC & Sunday School



Parents, families, guests, and grandparents, join us Sunday, April 13, during Sunday School (9:45-10:40am) for some fun Easter activities. Make your family a dozen eggs: Resurrection Eggs, to work through Holy Week being reminded of the Easter story. Create a yummy Easter Snack to taste and see how we fit into the Easter story. Learn how to fold Palm Whips into crosses and more! All activities will be held in the FLY room and the new MS FLY room - both rooms accessible from Fellowship Hall. We look forward to celebrating Holy Week with you!

Special Music - All Sunday School and ELC students will be providing special music during the 10:45 worship on Palm Sunday, April 13. The songs will be part of the Children's Message. Come and hear them as they show us how to "Say to the Lord, I Love You."

With all the snowy Wednesdays and power outages, we have updated the FLC Youth Schedules. Please make note of these changes on your calendars.

High School News

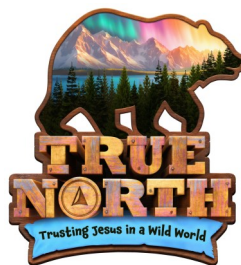
- **Wed, April 2**, 7:00-9:00pm, MOOD—Week 2
- **Wed, April 9**, 7:00-9:00pm, MOOD—Week 3
- **Wed, April 16**, Serve meal at Confirmation Banquet & Game night
- **Wed, April 23**, 7:00-9:00pm, MOOD—Week 4
- **Wed, April 30**, **Faith Finders** Scavenger Hunt, meet at church after 6:15pm worship
- **Wed, May 7**, Baccalaureate Service at 6:15pm at FLC for Seniors, followed by "End of Year" Party

Middle School & Confirmation News

- **Wed, April 2**, Final Confirmation Class for the year
8th Grade projects due
- **Wed, April 9**, MS FLYs, 7-8:30pm
- **Wed, April 16**, Confirmation Banquet & Presentations
Details have been sent through email
- **Wed, April 23**, 8th Grade Faith Walk at 7:00pm with parents (no 7th grade FLYs)
- **Sun, April 27**, Affirmation of Baptism
- **Wed, April 30**, MS FLYs & Confirmation
"End of Year" Party

Sunday School News

April Sunday School students will learn about how Jesus has victory over death, so we can live together with Jesus forever. There will be fun family activities on Palm Sunday, April 13, (*in place of the regular lesson*) and NO Sunday School on Easter Sunday. Mark your calendars as the last day of Sunday School will be Sunday, May 11.



VBS: REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Students Pre-School through 6th grade are invited to register for FLC's 2025 Vacation Bible School - True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World. VBS is from 5:30-8:15pm, Sunday, July 27-Wednesday, July 30 with the closing program on Thursday, July 31 at 6:30pm. A meal will be served for those registered from 5:30-6pm. VBS opening begins in the Worship Center at 6:00pm. True North is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch! Kids will also learn how to look for God in everyday life - something we call God Sightings.

Cost is \$10 which includes the meal each night, a t-shirt, projects, games and more! Scholarships are available if cost is an issue. Share with family and friends. At True North, kids will discover that they can trust Jesus in a wild world! Register on our website or scan the QR code.



Support the High School FLYs by volunteering to be a driver for the Faith Finders Scavenger Hunt on Wednesday, April 30 at 7:00pm. Students will be searching the city for a list of items connected to FLC and their faith. Clues will have various point values. For the safety of our youth, we need Adult Drivers for each team.

FLC Members - please have your porch light on if students may stop at your house looking for items for the High School FLY: Faith Finders on April 30. Thank you for your support of connecting our youth to members of FLC and the community.



FLC will be celebrating the graduating class of 2025 during worship on Wednesday, May 7 at 6:15pm. Please join us to celebrate and bless these young adults as they complete their high school careers and step into the great big wide world to shine the light of Jesus!

First Communion — We celebrate with these FLC students as they have completed their instruction and take their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7:00pm. Many thanks to Carol Renter and Sharon Hinds for helping the students make the bread for the Maundy Thursday service as well as Jen Gay for assisting with making chalices and patens.

Quinn Anderson • Jake Beckman • Riki Beckman
Audrianna Blunt • Dash Hansen • Elet Walters

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



Aaah....Spring! The ELC kids will be getting outside as much as possible and enjoying the rebirth of the earth. We can't wait to get outside and enjoy the wonders of God's world!

We had so much fun in March! We celebrated Dr. Seuss week with some crazy days full of hats, PJs, silly socks, and much more! We also had lots of fun on St. Patrick's Day!

The Week of the Young Child April 7-11

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association. The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

Monday is Music Monday • **Tuesday** is Tasty Tuesday • **Wednesday** is Work Together Wednesday
Thursday is Artsy Thursday • **Friday** is Family Friday

Thank you for sharing your children with us and being a part of our ELC family! Happy Easter!



First Lutheran Church
**2025-2026 ELC
PRESCHOOL
ENROLLMENT**

Contact Mindy Olson
402-721-2959
[mindyo@flcfremont.org](mailto:mindy@flcfremont.org)

3 Year Olds Tues/Thurs 9:00-11:30am	4 Year Olds Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00-11:30am	4 & 5 Year Olds Monday-Friday 12:30-3:30pm
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Limited Spots Available!

**LA HACIENDA
ELC FUNDRAISER**

April 7, 2025 | All Day

Show your support for the FLC Early Learning Center! **10% of your order will go to support ELC.** This is an all day event. Be sure to mention this fundraiser when you order!

3140 Elk Lane, Fremont NE

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – MARCH

March FLC Council Highlights

- Pajama Sunday went well with a good reflection on the five-year anniversary of COVID and the impact it has had
- Replacement of the church roof is still projected to occur this upcoming summer at some point
- There were 41 attendees at the OWLS tour of the CTE at Fremont High School!

Respectfully Submitted by Derek Fey, FLC Council Secretary

***Full minutes are available upon request*

Monthly Financial Report

	February Actual	February Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 85,997.33	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 465,000.00	\$ 517,692.51	\$ 469,781.97
General Income	\$ 92,061.10	\$ 68,035.00	\$ 492,475.00	\$ 566,510.27	\$ 508,353.49
Mission Income	\$ 985.00	\$ 4,004.16	\$ 26,525.04	\$ 38,581.50	\$ 64,023.61
Expenses	\$ 79,405.00	\$ 78,164.34	\$ 490,202.96	\$ 513,460.76	\$ 468,636.25
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ 13,641.10	\$ (6,125.18)	\$ 28,797.08	\$ 91,631.01	\$ 103,740.85
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 2,160.00			\$ 20,355.00	\$ 25,562.67
Build Fund Balance	48,492.52				

February pledged giving was drastically stronger than last year with continued RMDs contributions coming in. As a result, pledged giving has exceeded budget YTD by \$52.7K. February ended with a profit vs a budgeted loss. YTD there is a positive bottom line that has exceeded budget by \$60K although it remains \$10K lower than last year at this time. March is continuing strong which should end with the similar bottom line to last year even with the unbudgeted HVAC expenses. 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. FLC is blessed in so many ways including financially to support the missions and ministries of FLC.

~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator



Targeted Giving... (as of 2/28/25) 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	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$5,496.63	Zoe!	\$2,993.07
Technology	\$2,814.66	Good Samaritan	\$2,515.46	ELC Tuition Assistance	\$1,499.48
Church Home	\$7,546.93	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	Banquet Mobile Meal	\$6,670.34
Building Maint.	\$48,492.52	Quilt Ministry	\$3,719.07	Youth Trips	\$3,333.20
Sunday School	\$2,933.58	Children's WAM	\$3,597.16	VBS	\$309.99
First Lutheran Youth	\$5,005.61	Spoudazo	\$5,795.87		

Trek with us on the ultimate Alaskan adventure!

VBS 2025

July 27-30
5:30-8:15pm

July 31, 6:30pm
Wrap Up Event



Cost: \$10/Child

Includes: t-shirt, 4 days of activities, crafts, fun, Bible learning, and supper (5:30-6:00pm)

7th-12th Grade
& Adult Volunteers
needed!



REGISTER
HERE!

VOLUNTEER
SIGN UP



Pre-K to 6th Grade
Registration is OPEN!

Contact Gina DeBoer with questions: ginad@flcfremont.org



Join us for registration and an intro to Spoudazo hangout

Sunday, April 27th | 3:00-5:00pm

First Lutheran Church



Scan QR
code to join
Spoudazo!



FUN
FOOD
GAMES

2025 THEME REVEAL

BLIZZARD AND POWER OUTAGE RELIEF



Thank you to all who came together to help our community during the recent disaster!

We were fortunate to regain power to the building to become a warming/charging station for the community. We also delivered an emergency mobile meal on Friday, March 21, to Regency to help families effected by the blizzard and power outages. We appreciate all who volunteered their time and services to make all of this possible.

A huge thanks to our FLC Quilters for their tireless efforts throughout the year making LWR quilts. Because of this, FLC was able to donate around 100 quilts to local families in need. And...after a request sent to the congregation, about 60 more blankets were donated!

What a great gift of warmth and Jesus' love we were able to share with the community! Thank you all!

