



# The Messenger

Vol. 7, No. 2 ~ A Monthly Publication of First Lutheran Church of Fremont ~ February 2012

A place to belong . . . a place to become . . .

## Worship Schedule

<p><b>Sunday, February 5</b> <i>Blood Pressure Checks</i> 8:00 &amp; 9:30 am - Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 11:00 am - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>Sunday, February 12</b> 8:00 &amp; 9:30 am - Traditional Worship 11:00 am - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>Sunday, February 19</b> 8:00 &amp; 9:30 am - Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 11:00 am - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>Sunday, February 26</b> 8:00 &amp; 9:30 am - Traditional Worship 11:00 am - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion</p>
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### Reflections on Lent

From the Associate Pastor...

#### *He Emptied Himself: The God of Poverty*

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Lent is an appropriate time to think intentionally about the sacrifices that Christ has made for us. Christ "made himself nothing" (Philippians 2:7) so that we may live abundantly in God's grace. In a way, we could say that Jesus made himself *poor* so that we can be *rich* with God's blessings. This year's theme for the season of Lent is "He Emptied Himself: The God of Poverty".

This theme reminds us of God's selfless giving for us. During our mid-week Wednesday worship services, I will be leading the congregation in a series of teachings on a Bible passage from Philippians 2:5-11. In this passage, the scriptures announce a Christ who gave himself up, *completely and wholly*, for our sake. Please join us in worship as we explore together these ancient words which proclaim God's truth. Wednesday night services provide the perfect atmosphere for reflective worship in the middle of busy weeks. Let us use this time to worship "The God of Poverty" together.

In our Christian journey we are also invited to demonstrate a Christ-like giving of ourselves for the sake of our neighbor. Essentially, we too are invited to give ourselves up for others in need. So, in addition to worship, you are invited to a series of lecture-led workshops presented by Shawn Shanahan, Executive Director of the Fremont Area United Way. She will provide valuable insight to us about "poverty" in our own community of Fremont. These workshops will expose us to the truth about poverty but they will also provide us with resources and practical ways of responding to poverty as a Christian Church. Come explore the ways in which God is calling you to empty yourself for the sake of your neighbors in Fremont.

These workshops will highlight what every church member should know about poverty. The data and statistics that will be presented will be information that you will not want to miss. "Poverty" will be highlighted in a very real way. But the sessions will not stop there. Shawn will also be giving our church sensible ways of taking action as the body of Christ. We are blessed with this unique and privileged opportunity during this season of Lent and I hope that you will take advantage of it.

I encourage you to think and pray deeply about "The God of Poverty" during this upcoming season. Contemplate the altruistic giving that Christ has demonstrated for us. And in doing that, I also challenge you to consider ways in which you may give yourself up for your neighbor.

God Bless,  
Pastor Matt

*Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22:*

Wednesday Night Worship: 6:30 pm ~ Wednesday Night Poverty Workshops: 7:15 pm

STAFF	Extension
<b>CHARLIE AXNESS</b> Senior Pastor pastorcharlie@flc-ne.org	#15
<b>MATT KNOPF</b> Associate Pastor of Discipleship Ministries pastormatt@flc-ne.org	#32
<b>NORMAN L. FREUND</b> Pastor of Senior Ministries nefreund@gmail.com	#21
<b>JILL NOREBERG</b> Administrative Assistant to the Senior Pastor jilln@flc-ne.org	#11
<b>BECKY POPPE</b> Publications beckyp@flc-ne.org	#10
<b>TAMI HALL</b> Director of Confirmation Ministries tamih@flc-ne.org	#12
<b>AMY BRANDERT</b> Director of Worship & Music Ministries amyb@flc-ne.org	#22
<b>JEREMY HANSEN</b> Director of Youth & Outreach Ministries jeremyh@flc-ne.org	#18
<b>AMY CHRISTENSEN</b> Director of Children's Education Ministries amyc@flc-ne.org	#23
<b>RON YOUNG</b> Maintenance Engineer	#30
<b>KAREN MUNDY</b> Preschool Director/Teacher	#14
<b>KATHY DENKER, SHERIE EBERS &amp; HELEN EINSPAHR</b> Preschool Assistants	
<b>JONI VENCIL</b> Nursery Coordinator	
<b>BRUCE BARTELS / LAURIE BARTELS</b> Senior Choir Director/Accompanist	
<b>CORBIN BURMESTER, RACHEL SAMUELSON &amp; SARA SPEICHER</b> Children's Choir Assistants	
<b>NANCY RIX</b> Bell Choir Director	
<b>BILL MILLER &amp; MILT HAVEKOST</b> Maintenance	
<b>COLLEEN DILLEY, JANET LARSEN, PAM SPEVAK, MARTIN TRAUTRIMAS, &amp; GRADY WELLS</b> Parish Lay Visitors	

#### Radio Broadcast KHUB 1340 AM

Sundays at 11:00 am

#### TV Broadcasts Channel 13

Mondays at 10:30am & 6:00 pm

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 2:00 pm

WEB site [www.flc-ne.org](http://www.flc-ne.org)

Follow us on Twitter: @flcfremont

THE MESSENGER is published monthly by First Lutheran Church of Fremont.  
Deadline for the March Messenger is Monday, February 20. Contact Becky Poppe  
with submissions or comments at 402.721.2959 or beckyp@flc-ne.org

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**Christian Fellowship** will meet on February 3 at 12:00 noon. Join this group for ebelskivers and a movie. All our welcome.

**Second Monday Men & Women** meet on the second Monday of the month (February 13). Both groups meet at 9:00 am for coffee and then tackle some of the tasks needing to be done here at the church. Both groups always welcome newcomers.

**SOLOs** (Fellowship for singles or those widowed) meet at 11:45 am each Sunday for dinner at a variety of places:

**February Calendar**

5	Hy-Vee
12	Wendy's
19	Brass Wok
26	Arby's

**L.I.F.T. (Lutherans in Fellowship Together) Potluck Group** will meet on Thursday, February 23, at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to share and stay for games and fellowship after the meal.

**Star Crosses:** We will keep our star crosses lit until Ash Wednesday (February 22). On Ash Wednesday, unplug it and leave it in place during the forty days of Lent. We will relight them on Easter. Please bring them to the church office and fill out the repair form if your star cross has 5 or more lights out. You will be called when the repairs are done.

**First Lutheran Youth (FLYs)** meet each Wednesday from 7:30 - 9:00 pm in the youth room. All high school age youth are welcome to come. Bible Study, fellowship and games fill the time. Come join in the fun!



**Church Calendar Items:** If you need to put something on the church calendar, please contact Jill Norenberg. She will be able to tell you if the day and space you want to use is available.

The **Radio Broadcast** and **Altar Flower** charts for 2012 are posted near the reception desk. Flowers are \$35 and Radio Broadcast is \$150. There are lots of openings for the radio broadcast. Please consider sponsoring this important ministry. Get a group to go in together.

**Youth for Christ**, starting in the Fremont area, would like you to pray about giving the gift of time to a young mom. If the Holy Spirit moves you, please call Susan at 402-719-6652.



It's time for **DAFFODIL DAYS** once again! FLC church members and guests will have an opportunity to place an order **Sunday, February 5, and Sunday, February 12**. Please see the sign-up table for more details. Help us to bring a little spring into the worship space as well as to work towards a cure! We will display the daffodils on Sunday, March 11, and you can pick up your order after the last service.

**Synod Information:** The Nominating Committee of the Nebraska Synod is requesting nominees for Synod Council, Synod Boards and Committees, and delegates to the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to be held August 12-18 in Pittsburgh, PA. Those who would like to nominate someone or would be interested in serving themselves should contact the church office for the necessary forms. Also available are Resolution Submittal Forms for the 2012 Assembly of the Nebraska Synod. All forms must be received by the Nebraska Synod Office by March 2, 2012.

**Grief Support Group:** Fremont Area Medical Center is once again offering a grief support group for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. This group will meet for four consecutive Thursday evenings (February 2, 9, 16 and 23) from 7:00 - 9:00 pm on the third floor of Health Park Plaza on the FAMC campus. This group will be supportive and educational in nature and is designed for anyone 16 years or older. It does not matter when the death occurred, everyone is invited.

**Volunteers Needed at Care Corps:** You are needed at our facility to help us help our community. We are in need of volunteers to help answer phones, file paperwork, help with cleaning both inside and outside, help cook, and many other areas of our facility. We also need help with organizing and running structured classes for our children. **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!** We are willing to train you. Your time & help can truly make a difference in the lives of others! We are asking for any time you can give. It may be for a couple of hours a day, a week, or a month. Your time at Care Corps can and will make a difference in the lives of those in need of help.

**Volunteers are needed to work with Seniors at Pathfinder House** Assisted Living at 3010 N Clarkson. They can volunteer for a variety of things and at a variety of times...Calling Bingo, Playing Cards or Games with the residents, providing entertainment for the residents (such as a musical instrument or singing or whatever talent they may have). We need a couple of volunteers for the Sit N Fit morning exercise program, to hold a Bible study, or even if they just want to sit and visit with some of the residents. Contact Kelli Spies at 402-719-6590 to volunteer.

**First Lutheran staff prays** for five member families at their meeting each week. If you have a specific prayer request for your family, please call the church office to let us know of your concern. The following members and their families being prayed for throughout **February** are:



*John & Lori Sajevic, Rick & Deb Sammons, Jared & Marsha Sampson, Steve & Celeste Samuelson, Al & Joan Sawtelle, Ernie & Sheila Schafersman, Clarence & Dee Schakat, Dave & Sharlyn Scheer, Barrett & Tina Schmidt, Steve & Dee Schmidt, Meghan Schneider, Melvin Schneider, Mitch & Renee Schneringer, Mary Jane Schnirl, Charlotte Scholl, Mike & Cyndi Schroeder, Willard & Cherie Schultz, Britt & Angie Scott, Butch & Joan Scott, Marlice Sebade*

**The Ministry of Healing**

Please remember to let our church office know when you are facing a health concern or hospitalization so that our pastoral staff might be in touch with you and you can provide information to share with our whole faith community. When you request, a prayer chain will also be activated. First Lutheran members known to have had health concerns last month included:

**Helen Bauermeister, Karl Engdahl, Julie Fechner, Butch Scott, Ruth Sibert, Madison Smutz**

**Deaths**

Our sympathy to the family and friends of:  
**Dick & Barbara Coke**, on the death of her mother  
**Dan & Deb Hitchler**, on the death of her sister, *Diane Shannon*  
**Vera Nielsen**  
**Arnold Rix**

We ask you to include in your prayers the following members and friends of First Lutheran who continue in active service to their country:

**AMN Robert M. Blume**, nephew of Scott & Bonnie Warner  
**SPC Dave Buller**, extended family of Phyllis & Jerry Leaver  
**Cody Carlow**, son of Stan and Kathy Carlow  
**Mikayla Carlson**, daughter of Stan and Kathy Carlow  
**Staff Sgt. Christopher Cerny**, son of Steve & Cathy Cerny  
**Staff Sgt. Jeannie Soto-Cerny**, daughter-in-law of Steve & Cathy Cerny  
**Maj. Jim & Maj. Christina Cook**, nephew (and wife) of Chuck & Lorie Peterson  
**Lt. Stash A. Dwornicki**, extended family of Jill Norenberg  
**SSTT Jeffrey Ebeling**, nephew of Darlene Beran  
**Specialist Stephan A. Fahrlander**, grandson of Ray & Myrna Meister  
**Sgt. John Ferguson**, friend of Richard & Tracy Arett  
**Pvt. Sammi Jo Hajek**, granddaughter of Jerry & Joy Horn  
**LCDC Keith R. Hanson**, son of Jim & Mary Ann Hanson  
**1st Lt. Michael Harper**, grandson of Mardell Weitzenkamp

**S. A. Sarah Haskins**, granddaughter of Larry & Mary Ann Thomas  
**LCPL Jarad A. Huddle**, son of Debra Huddle  
**1st Lt. Ryan Hurt USMC**, nephew of Dave & Kathy Pinkall  
**Pvt. Jordan Klocke**, grandson of Dwayne and Lucy Klocke  
**Amn Jacob Kohlscheen**, nephew of Rick & Deb Sammons  
**SFC Eldon Kuntzelman**, son of Rex and Vi Kuntzelman  
**1st Lt. Scott Miland**, brother of Heather Peterson  
**Lt. Col. Randall Morris**, son of Diane and Paul Morris  
**ENFN Chase P. Nickels**, grandson of Delwyn & Anita Hasemann  
**Tech. Sgt. Curtis Nissen**, grandson of Clarence & Dee Schakat  
**Capt. Johanna O'Toole**, granddaughter of Barbara Lanning  
**Sgt. Scott Peterson**, son of Chuck & Lorie Peterson  
**Andrew Steffensmeier**, nephew of Scott & Bonnie Warner  
**PFC Mike Warner**, son of Scott & Bonnie Warner  
**LCPL Joshua Wells**, grandson of Jerry & Joy Horn  
**A1-C Benjamin Andrew Wing**, grandson of Roger & Shirley Wing



## Letters

### What You're Saying to Us

We wanted to thank all those who called, sent cards, or extended personal wishes for our 65th anniversary. It was very much appreciated and added much joy to our special day. ~ *Richard & Tracy Arett*

Thank you so much for the Beginner's Bible. I love to read the Bible before bedtime. Thank you for thinking of me on my Baptismal anniversary. ~ *Ryan Brittenham*

You have once again stepped up to help. The dinner Tami brought was enough for two meals. Fantastic cooks! The altar flowers are beautiful on my dining room table. Thank you for everything. ~ *Margie Ludvigsen*

I wish to thank the pastors, staff, Christian Fellowship and First Lutheran for the birthday greetings. That was very much appreciated. ~ *Dorothy Clausen*

Thanks to First Lutheran and the college student committee. Thank you for the Christmas CD and the gift card. I appreciate your support. Thank you for thinking of me. School is going well. ~ *Ryan Christensen*

We wanted to thank the members of FLC for the Christmas music CD. As college students, towards the end of a semester busy with finals week, we often lose sight of the real reason why we take a break. Receiving the Christmas music CD helped us remember that no matter how busy our lives may be, we have a caring church family who is always supporting us. We would also like to extend a thank you to the FLC women for the Subway gift card. It also provided a nice break from the rigors of finals week and the poor diets we take on during that busy week as well. Thanks again, ~ *Bill Poppe and Kirsten Maffitt*

To First Lutheran and First Lutheran Women—Thank you all very much for the Christmas Card/CD and Subway gift card. The music was great to listen to and I can always use a break from cafeteria food!! Thanks Again for all you do! ~ *Lisa Poppe*

Thank you to everyone who helped make the First Lutheran Blood Drive successful Sunday, January 8. Thirty-one units were collected and there were four deferrals. We surpassed our goal of twenty-eight units. Thank you again to those who helped with the Perfect Gift—the Gift of Life— by presenting to donate blood, bringing food for the canteen, and to the volunteers who served. A special thank you to Lucy Klocke, Judi McKenzie and Colleen Dilley for organizing and making the many contacts and calls. We look forward to another successful blood drive April 15.

~ *The Health Cabinet*

Operation Shield came together to bake cookies for our SOLDIERS. The FLY group joined us. Thanks to you our church members we were able to make 637 cookies within 2 hours. Everybody had a good time. We had young and old people helping. We sent out 23 boxes which the cost was \$251.85. We have a total of 26 SOLDIERS but 3 no address's for. Left over ingredients went to the Jefferson House for the kids to make cookies. Also the Food Pantry at Low Income. Thank you to everybody who helped.

Did you know?...Christian Fellowship had held their December meal with ham and cheesy potatoes provided. Rest was potluck. We had 35 people show up. We had a Christmas game sheet that everybody took time to do. The answers were given. The table with the men knew all of the answers but they didn't seem to know one of the questions. AMAZING! Charlotte Scholl gave secretaries report. She did a wonderful job. Treasurer was not able to make it. Devotion was given by Pastor Norm. Wonderful job. We had Amy Christensen about Puppetry. She did a wonderful job. Lots of questions were asked. Beth Meyer demonstrated. We also collected items for the Pantry at Low Income. We were able to collect 120 lbs. WAY TO GO !! Some items were given from Cookies for SOLDIERS. All are welcome to join this month.

Thank you for the delicious meal provided us on my return home. Also, thank you to the pastors for their visits and prayers while I was ill. It is so nice having such a caring church family. I am still doing therapy, but am feeling better. Thanks again ~ *Joe Kubr*



## Families

### Children and Family Ministry



#### Looking for a Few Good Arms!

Have you longed for the thrill of the stage? Yearned for the excitement of performing? ...travel?...the challenge of working with your hands while down on your knees? If so, the puppet team would like to give you the opportunity to satisfy those longings and yearnings. This ministry is for ALL ages (6th grade through adults)! For more information about puppet adoption or the puppet team, please contact Amy Christensen at the church office.

We have several different puppeteer groups practicing already. So many puppets...so few arms!



## Lenten

### Opportunities

**Lent devotionals are back!** Anyone from the First Lutheran community is welcome and encouraged to submit a Lent devotion for the 2012 season. All devotions will be compiled and put into a devotional booklet which will be handed out to church members for the season of Lent. This way, church members will have a daily devotional (40 days worth) to read during the season. Please email your submission to Pastor Matt ([pastormatt@flc-ne.org](mailto:pastormatt@flc-ne.org) -- *only electronic submissions will be accepted*) by Monday, February 13. Any length of devotion will be accepted (it could be as short as 1 paragraph). Please include a Bible passage to read, an original devotional, and a prayer to pray. The Lent theme this year will center on issues of poverty and our response as God's people. Direct any questions to Pastor Matt.



#### "What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty"

Presented by Shawn Shanahan, Executive Director of the Fremont Area United Way.  
Wednesday nights at 7:15 pm in the sanctuary.

*What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty* is a comprehensive and useful guide for helping churches understand and reach out to people in poverty. Packed with relevant resources and eye opening insights. To be effective you have to know what poverty does to human beings. What have they experienced? What are their needs? How can they be integrated into First Lutheran Church, become members, rise above their past, and offer their gifts and skills in return?

#### Agenda for Poverty Workshops

- Week 1... Introduction, overview, hidden rules among classes of poverty.
- Week 2...Language patterns and cognition, violence and conflict resolution
- Week 3...family structure and marital relationships, money, stewardship, and spending and church participation
- Week 4...Whom do we help and how much? Transitioning the poor into membership. Issues with transitioning the poor into the church.
- Week 5... Systemic Issues in church organizations, assessing resources, conclusion.
- Week 6... statistics, review and develop a plan.



## World Missions

### Mow o

Greetings in Jesus name. I hope you had a good beginning of the new year. In Mow o we are are happy that we have been blessed to see a new year. I just wanted to inform you of the appreciation over the donation of 5000 dollars which we have received. I just wanted to say a word of thanks to you and to all well-wishers for Mow o. At this beginning of the year we are busy in putting things in place. The school has just opened and those who were late in registering their children have been given one more week. Just at these few days we have seen how we have been blessed by our new teachers Mary and Neema.

Sincerely in Him,  
*Pastor Macha*



#### Average Weekly Attendance through December

2010	2011
650	682



Did you know that our church sends out regular "Twitter" newsbites? Pictures of current ministries often show up on our account. You do not need a special login or password to see these "tweets." Just check out First Lutheran's home page!

<b>Lydia</b>	Wednesday, February 8	9:30 am Heritage Room	<b>Really Bad Girls of the Bible</b>
	Hostess: Lorie Peterson		Tuesday, February 21 7:00 pm
	Chapter 6: <i>He Still Moves Stones</i>		
<b>Faith</b>	Thursday, February 9	7:00 pm Heritage Room	<b>Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible</b>
	Hostess: Mary McCarthy		Friday, February 24 9:30 am
	Lesson Leader: Sheri Willberding		



**Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet on Tuesday, February 7, at 10:00 am. Lutheran World Relief is now taking crocheted or knitted baby blankets in their Layettees. So if you have left over yarn or are in the mood to make a baby blanket, you have until

fall to do so. This will be a great way to use up left over yarn. Please give the office a call if you know of someone who would benefit from a prayer shawl.

**The Quilters** will be working on Wednesday, February 15, from 9:30 am to 2 pm. We are getting a get start on making quilts for next fall. Many quilts were given to local agencies. There is also a need for some baby quilts locally. If you would like a smaller project, this would be a blessing for some child who is ill. Fabric is running low so please go through your stash and see if there is some you would like to share. Just bring fabric, finished projects, and old sheets and light weight blankets to church. They will be put to good use.



They will be put to good use.

Save the date for the **Midland Conference Spring Gathering**. A day of Bible study, workshops, fun and fellowship. March 31 - First Lutheran Church/Fremont A day-long retreat starting with registration and coffee at 8:15 all for the cost of \$15.



Seven women from First Lutheran joined 380+ women at the **Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization's Winter Retreat** in Grand Island on January 14. Ms. Wheelchair Nebraska of 2010 spoke to us about the impact one can have on people that we meet and the importance of letting someone know if they have had an impact on you.

After showing a brief clip about the book *Heaven is for Real*, Sonja Burpo spoke on prayer.

Julie Krull spoke about Labyrinths and over half of the people present walked the Labyrinth that was set up for the day.



Church Women United is a national ecumenical movement of Christian women witnessing to faith and unity in Jesus Christ through worship, study, action and celebration. The area unit is comprised of women's groups from eleven congregations in Fremont, including First Lutheran. Celebrations planned throughout the year include World Day of Prayer, May Friendship Day, World Community Day, and Human Rights Celebration. Projects include Random Acts of Kindness, Least Coin for peace and reconciliation throughout the world, layettes for Native Americans at Winnebago and Macy, Crop Walk, blanket offering for those in need, books for Jefferson House, and support for Habitat for Humanity and Salvation Army. Beth Meyer serves as the Listening Woman for First Lutheran Women and was elected secretary for the coming year for the Fremont unit of Church Women United. Congratulations Beth.



Women throughout the area are invited to a citywide Bible study starting February 9 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Fremont. The eight-week event features Beth Moore's latest work "Mercy Triumphs" — a study of the book of James. Sessions run from 7-9 pm on consecutive Thursday evenings. Tammy Real-McKeighan, who writes the weekly Spiritual Spinach columns for the Fremont Tribune, will moderate the study.

**Participants will sit at round tables. Evenings will include hour-long video presentations by Moore, a nationally known Bible teacher and best-selling author. Regularly featured on "Wednesdays with Beth" on the Life Today program, Moore has written many Bible studies including "Breaking Free" and "Believing God." Her works, studied by groups around the world, have covered the lives of Jesus, David, Daniel, Moses and John. Churches of various denominations have used Moore's Bible studies. The rest of the evening will be spent in table discussions and prayer.**

Workbooks accompanying the study cost \$14.95. Attendees are asked to pay for their book on the night of the first session. Scholarships are available for those unable to afford the books. **Workbooks are greatly encouraged, but not mandatory.** Please pre-register, **whether or not you want a book**, by calling Good Shepherd at 402-721-8412.

# He Emptied Himself: The God of Poverty.

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

-Philippians 2:5-11

## Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

*Join us for Wednesday meals, worship, & classes:*

### MEALS - 5:00 PM

Soup Suppers will be served beginning at 5:00 pm. Free-will donations support non-profit causes (see each week for details).

### WORSHIP - 6:30 PM

Prayer Services will be held in the sanctuary. Pastor Matt will preach on "The God of Poverty" from Philippians chapter 2.

### CLASSES - 7:15 PM

"Poverty Workshops" - Lectures led by Shawn Shanahan, Executive Director of the Fremont Area United Way.



See the full Lent Schedule online: [www.flc-ne.org](http://www.flc-ne.org)



## Council Highlights

December 2011

JANUARY 3, 2012  
7:00 P.M.

- Pastor Charlie also reported on the Constitutional Law. The congregation will vote on whether or not to strike B17.01 and B17.02 which are in conflict with C17.01 and C17.02 of the constitution.

Associate Pastor's Time – no report since Pastor Matt was on vacation

### President's report

President Paul Johnson received thank you letters from Care Corps, Inc., the Crisis Center, Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity, Low Income Ministry, NE Lutheran Campus Ministry, NE Lutheran Outdoor Ministries and NE State Penitentiary Followers of Christ for monetary contributions and also from Care Corps, Inc. and the Crisis Center for gifts of quilts to their ministries.

### New Business

There was no new business.

### Old Business

A motion was made by Rick Spalding to accept a change on the ballot roster for new council members being voted on the Sunday prior to the Annual meeting to replace Sherry Slagle's name with Roxanne Botic's name. Matt Ridder seconded the motion.

Committee time met after adjournment of the council meeting.

Board of Stewards – nothing new on the agenda for January

Board of Deacons – nothing new on the agenda for January

Board of Trustees – nothing new on the agenda for January

MSC to adjourn. Members of the Council concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy Rix

The January, 2012 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President Paul Johnson.

Roll call was taken and a quorum of members was present: Pastor Charlie, Daryl Brodd, Wanda Clements, Evelyn Eldridge, Stan Freeman, Paul Johnson, Dawn Koehlmoos, Sharon Landholm, Janet Lowe, Pablo McDermott, Judi McKenzie, Bill Miller, Kathy Moll, Chuck Peterson, Jon Rensch, Matt Ridder, Nancy Rix, Kevin Smith, Rick Spalding, Kent Speicher and Sandy Trehearn.

Pastor Charlie presented opening devotions from Job 19:14-15.

Dave Grimm introduced Rob Spence from Cosgriff Company to the Council. Cosgriff Company was hired to do a feasibility study regarding Phase 2 of the Building Campaign. Among other things that he presented regarding the feasibility study, he reported a 22% response to the survey. That percentage rate and many of the responses that were received were above normal survey results. Rob will be at the Annual Meeting on January 24 to go over the survey results with the congregation. Both Dave and Rob encouraged everyone to be at the Annual Meeting.

### Secretary's report

MSC to accept the Secretary's report.

### Treasurer's report

MSC to accept the Treasurer's report.

### Senior Pastor's Time

- Pastor Charlie thanked those members of the Council who will have concluded their terms this month.
- Pastor Charlie reported that he and the staff are studying Schnase's book, "Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation".



## Stewardship

## Financial Giving

	General Fund Pledged Receipts			Building Fund Receipts		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
January	49,293.50	60,553.50	81,706.75	5,514.50	8,808.85	31,417.50
February	56,074.00	49,049.50	49,379.50	17,528.50	2,444.50	17,831.92
March	69,420.91	55,058.50	56,324.25	10,675.50	2,384.50	16,027.50
April	53,784.50	54,138.50	51,404.00	8,251.50	17,988.49	34,446.50
May	57,751.00	55,536.50	63,807.00	16,103.50	78,395.50	8,540.50
June	47,087.50	43,720.50	44,914.25	6,717.50	32,495.60	11,205.50
July	56,191.50	48,696.50	55,418.00	6,113.25	21,029.83	16,879.50
August	56,833.50	54,800.50	43,807.25	6,286.29	9,302.50	15,007.50
September	49,990.50	50,320.50	42,828.50	4,203.50	13,145.50	22,397.00
October	54,353.50	59,286.50	59,751.25	5,725.50	17,947.50	17,166.50
November	70,606.50	48,304.50	57,159.58	57,461.50	27,364.02	22,194.86
December	<u>93,777.00</u>	<u>79,849.50</u>	<u>98,101.70</u>	<u>5,792.56</u>	<u>98,379.87</u>	<u>123,694.28</u>
Total to Date	714,513.91	659,315.00	702,802.03	151,006.56	331,042.94	336,809.06

	2011 General Fund			2010 General Fund		
	Receipts	Expenses	Net Loss	Receipts	Expenses	Net Loss
December	108,441.50	82,120.90	26,320.60	90,550.60	76,273.77	14,276.83
Total to Date	795,508.99	764,235.07	31,273.92	745,192.07	761,947.38	(16,755.31)

December was the second largest month of pledged giving since we have been in this building! For the year, only 2009 had more pledged giving than what we received in 2011. This strong December helped us finish with a surplus of over \$31K. Much better than last year and providing a good cushion in our cash flow. Thanks to all. Pledges continue to slowly come in for 2012, up to 299 pledge cards totaling \$632,570, which is about 87% of our budget. Still time to make a pledge! The capital fund also had a strong finish to 2011, exceeding 2010. We have almost \$550K in the bank! With the help of the feasibility study, the council continues to explore our options and building needs. Continued congregation input is needed and welcome. Let's make 2012 another successful year at FLC. Sincerely, Kent Speicher, Church Treasurer.



## From the Health Cabinet



## Check It Out

## Library News

What's NEW in the Library? -- **THE STORY.....The Bible As One Continuing Story Of God And His People**

From the foreword by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee: "This book tells the grandest, most compelling story of all time: the story of a true God who loves his children, who established for them a way of salvation and provided a route to eternity. Each story in these 31 chapters reveals the God of grace--the God who speaks; the God who acts; the God who listens; the God whose love for his people culminated in his sacrifice of Jesus, his only Son, to atone for the sins of humanity."

**The Story**, through its unique and easy-to-read format, opens a door to God's truth. It's a door that every person is consciously or unconsciously searching for. A door that leads to freedom, hope and God himself! As you read **The Story** you will encounter not only the story of humankind but also the story of who God is and what he has done for us--for you! **The Story** includes the actual, God-breathed words of the Bible. The chapters that comprise **The Story** contain portions of Scripture that were thoughtfully and carefully excerpted and then placed in chronological order. The Scripture text used is taken from the New International Version (NIV).

You will find this new and exciting book in the "About the Bible (AB)" section of the library located along the north wall.  
CHECK IT OUT!

Many times we go to the internet to seek information about diseases and conditions or health concerns and problems. Learning about a disease or condition can be helpful, but it is always best to go to a website with ".gov" or ".org". It is always important to determine who is writing the article you are reading. If the writer is not a medical professional they may not be giving accurate information or advice. It is also important to determine if the writer is working for a company that is trying to sell you a product.

If you are having a health problem or concern, it is always best not to self diagnose and self-treat with information from the internet.

Medicine is complex. Make an appointment with an appropriate health care provider to discuss your problem or concerns. Your health care provider will not only conduct the appropriate exam to make a diagnosis, but can provide proper treatment which will help allay anxiety. The internet cannot do that for you.



