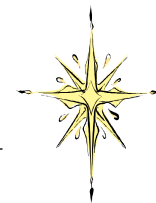


# THE MESSENGER



Vol. 4, No. 10 | A Monthly Publication of First Lutheran Church of Fremont | November 2009

## REFLECTIONS From the Senior Pastor

**A place to belong and  
a place to become . . .**

### First Lutheran Staff

*Charlie's Chatter*  
"The Lord alone did lead us."

**October 18, 2009 – Motion: First Lutheran Church,  
Fremont, Nebraska, calls Matthew Knopf to be the  
Associate Pastor of Discipleship Ministries.**

**Vote: 270 Yes                      0 No**

This past Sunday the congregation voted unanimously to call Matt Knopf as our associate pastor of discipleship ministries. Matt and his wife Jessica are delightful people. More than that they are committed to the work of making disciples of all people.

The following are a few excerpts from Matt's Profile for Call:

"I am passionate about helping people to see the Scriptures come alive for them. God's Word is alive and active and has the power to transform our hearts and minds."

"Faithful service comes through humility; not through boasting."

"My deepest conviction is that our Lord calls each and every person to be in relationship with God."

"I believe the missional aspirations for our church will send the gospel into new territories for the ELCA – very exciting."

"I am humbled and excited to be called into this special ministry of God's Word and sacrament. For many years now, the church body of the ELCA has molded and shaped me in this calling, and I am honored to receive it and all its responsibilities."

I am as excited as Matt when I ponder the possibilities of his impact on this congregation. Matt was an unbelievable match to our profile. (The profile was presented at the Sunday forums and is available for review.) We were seeking a candidate who was excited about ministry, mission minded, one who would "empower people to live an active life of Christian faith through actions, devotions, and worship."

I believe God has answered our prayers.

In Christ,

Pastor Charlie

	<u>Extension</u>
<b>CHARLIE AXNESS</b> Senior Pastor pastorcharlie@flc-ne.org	#15
<b>NORMAN L. FREUND</b> Pastor of Visitation Ministry nfreund@webtv.net	#21
<b>KATHY GERKING</b> Interim Associate Pastor pastorkathy@flc-ne.org	#19
<b>JILL NOREBERG</b> Administrative Assistant to the Senior Pastor jilln@flc-ne.org	#11
<b>TAMMI WOLFF</b> Publications tammiw@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>PAM SPEVAK</b> Director of Children's Education Ministries pam@flc-ne.org	#23
<b>RON YOUNG</b> Maintenance Engineer	#30
<b>KAREN MUNDY</b> Preschool Director/Teacher	#14
<b>SHERIE EBERS &amp; HELEN EINSPAHR</b> Preschool Assistants	
<b>BRUCE BARTELS</b> Senior Choir Director	
<b>LAURIE BARTELS</b> Senior Choir Accompanist	
<b>BARB HANEN</b> Cherub Choir Accompanist	
<b>RACHEL SAMUELSON &amp; SARA SPEICHER</b> Junior Choir Assistants	
<b>ROSIE HAIAR</b> Nursery Coordinator	
<b>BILL MILLER &amp; MILT HAVEKOST</b> Maintenance	
<b>ALICE CLAUSEN, IONE POPKEN &amp; MARTIN TRAUTRIMAS</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)**

# PRAYERS

## Remembering ...

**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 **November** are:

Maxine Price, Nicole Pronske, Ron & Kay Pronske, Duane & Bobbi Rath, Steve & Ruth Rector, Joanne Reents, Lonnie & Shirley Reker, Jon & Tamm Rensch, Carol Renter, Roger & Linda Revis, Jerry & Susan Richards, Matt & Emily Ridder, Rich & Carrie Rise, Gary & Cece Ristau, Arnold Rix, Marcella Rix, Nancy Rix, Jack & Lyn Robart, Jon & Trisha Rohlf, Cathy Ross, Elaine Ross, Doyle & Coleen Routon, Ardyce Row, Florene Rumery and Scott & Cynthia Ruwe.

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*  
**Cadet Bryce Christensen**, *son of Dale & Jeannine Christensen*  
**Specialist Stefan A. Fahrlander**, *grandson of Ray & Myrna Meister*  
**LCDC Keith R. Hanson**, *son of Jim & Mary Ann Hanson*  
**Michael Harper, Midshipman**,  
*grandson of Lowell & Mardell Weitzenkamp*  
**Sgt. Sarah Haskins**, *Granddaughter of Larry & Mary Ann Thomas*  
**CPL Garret D. Heitshusen**, *friend of the congregation*  
**2nd Lt. Ryan Hurt USMC**, *nephew of Dave & Kathy Pinkall*

**Army Spc. Jared Kruse**, *son of Jeff & Connie Elliott*  
**SFC Eldon Kuntzelman**, *son of Rex and Vi Kuntzelman*  
**Lt. Col. Randall Morris**, *son of Diane and Paul Morris*  
**ENFN Chase P. Nickels**, *grandson of Delwyn & Anita Hasemann*  
**Curtis Nissen**, *grandson of Clarence & Dee Schakat*  
**1st Lt. Johanna O'Toole**, *granddaughter of Barbara Lanning*  
**Sgt. Scott Peterson**, *son of Chuck & Lorie Peterson*  
**Andrew Steffensmeier**, *nephew of Scott & Bonnie Warner*  
*If you have someone that you would like to be added to this list please call the church office.*

# DEVOTIONS

## Family Faith Conversations

### For the week of November 1

**Monday:** Read Exodus 2:1-10. How did Miriam show her love for her brother Moses? How can you show your love for people in your family?

**Tuesday:** Read Genesis 50:17-21. How did Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers show his faith in God?

**Wednesday:** Read Matthew 5:21-22. How can words hurt family members? How can words help your family be more loving?

**Thursday:** Read Proverbs 17:1. How can you do a better job of keeping peace in your family?

**Friday:** Read Matthew 18:21-22. What is hardest for you to forgive? What might make forgiveness easier for you?

**Saturday:** Read Matthew 5:23-24. Why do you think it matters how you feel about everyone in your family when you worship God?

### For the week of November 8:

**Monday:** Read Joshua 23:14. What promises are you waiting for God to keep?

**Tuesday:** Read 2 Peter 3:8-9. When is it hard for you to wait for God to keep his promises? What might help you be more patient?

**Wednesday:** Read 2 Peter 1:4. How does God's promise that we can live with him affect your everyday life?

**Thursday:** Read Hebrews 8:5-6. How is the promise we have in Jesus better than any promises or covenants made before?

**Friday:** Read Luke 1:46-54. How do you feel knowing that Jesus died on the cross to keep the promise to be merciful?

**Saturday:** Read John 14:15-18. What did Jesus promise his followers before he left them?

How can the Holy Spirit help us keep our promises to God?

### For the week of November 15

**Monday:** Read Psalm 73:25. In your everyday lives, what distractions keep you from acting God-like?

**Tuesday:** Read Matthew 22:34-39. Why do you think Jesus said that the verse from Deuteronomy is the most important commandment?

**Wednesday:** Read Matthew 6:34. What other "masters" have you been tempted to serve?

**Thursday:** Read Romans 6:12-13. How can parts of your body be "instruments of righteousness" this week? For example, what might your hands or your mouth do to be like Jesus?

**Friday:** Read Ephesians 5:5. What are "idols" that people worship today that might lead to greediness, impurity and immorality?

**Saturday:** Read Luke 14:25-33. Why did Jesus say those who follow him have to "hate" their families? Why must people give up so much to follow Jesus?

### For the week of November 22

**Monday:** Read Psalm 139:8-10. What can you do this week to remind you to turn to God for guidance?

**Tuesday:** Read Hebrews 11:8-10. When have you trusted and followed God, even though you didn't know what would happen? What happened?

**Wednesday:** Read Matthew 4:18-22. How was

the disciples' decision to follow Jesus similar to Abram's decision? How was it different?

**Thursday:** Read Nahum 1:7. When has trusting God made you feel safe?

**Friday:** Read John 10:3-4. Why should you follow Jesus?

**Saturday:** Read Psalm 23. What tempts you away from the paths of righteousness? What helps you let God lead you?

### For the week of November 29

**Monday:** Read Zechariah 7:9-10. When is it hardest for you to think the best about someone?

**Tuesday:** Read Genesis 45:1-15. If you had been in Joseph's place, how would you have treated his brothers?

**Wednesday:** Read 1 Corinthians 13. What one thing will you do this week to be a better family member?

**Thursday:** Read 1 Peter 3:10-11. What can you do in your everyday life to "seek peace"?

**Friday:** Read James 3:13-18. When have you felt envious of someone? What did you do?

**Saturday:** Read Matthew 7:12. How can one simple rule "sum up the Law and the Prophets"?

# MEMBERS

## Births, Baptisms, Deaths, Marriages

### Births:

Elijah Jean Hansen September 25, 2009  
*Parents: Jeremy and Jenny Hansen*

### Baptisms:

**Wyatt Andrew TenEyck** September 29, 2009  
*Parents: Stephen & Sarah TenEyck*  
*Sponsors: Greg Sampson, Laura Pleas, Matt & Jaci Riley*

**Conor Ryan Donahue** October 11, 2009  
*Parents: Kris Paulson and Jeremy and Jessica Sorensen*  
*Sponsors: Stacy Donahue and Nikki Paulson*

**Barron Stephen Schmidt** October 18, 2009  
*Parents: Barrett & Tina Schmidt*  
*Sponsors: Roger & Heather Klassen*

### Deaths:

Elvira Heller  
 Kirsten Maffitt on the death of her grandfather.  
 Brad & Shawn Nick on the death of Brad's grandfather.  
 Lowell Weitzenkamp on the death of his brother.  
 Pastor Del & Phyllis Wiemers on the death of Phyllis's sister Elda Sasse.

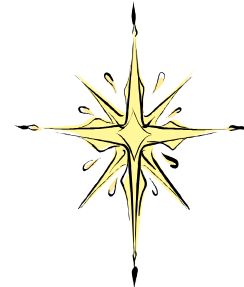
### Marriage:

Brenda Riley to Jerry Luby October 3, 2009  
 Brooke Engdahl to Matthew Lunneborg October 10, 2009

### 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 health concerns this month included:

**Tammy McKenzie, Margie Ludvigsen, Maxine Price, Gloria Jensen, Linda Wiese, Marj McDuffee, John Gard, Joan Bentley, Jenny Hansen, Ron Young, and Kay Petersen**



**271 recipes needed - 207 received to date = 193 still needed!**

# CAMP NEWS

Carol Joy Holling



### Women's Christmas Craft Night

Friday, November 20, 2009

6:00 -9:00 pm

Carol Joy Holling Center

\$15 per person includes appetizers, hot chocolate and one of each of three crafts.

(If you would like to make more of any item, an additional \$2 per gift is required)

Childcare is available for an additional \$5 per child for the evening!

**GREAT gifts for teachers, babysitters, neighbors & stocking stuffers!**

Register on line at [www.nlom.org](http://www.nlom.org), or call Becca toll free at 1-888-656-6254. Payment due at sign-in!

### Average Weekly Attendance through September

2008	2009
671	659



**ARE YOU WRINKLED WITH BURDEN?  
 COME TO CHURCH FOR A FACE LIFT!**

**November 1 is the end of day light savings.  
 Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on October 31st.**



## **Thanksgiving Eve**

Wednesday, November 25

Worship with Holy Communion

7:00 pm

Nursery care & bus service provided

(Call the church office if you would like a ride)

## **Thanksgiving Day**

Thursday, November 26

Worship with Holy Communion

9:30 am

No nursery or bus service

Postmaster: Dated Material



**First Lutheran Church**

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THE MESSENGER is published monthly by First Lutheran Church of Fremont. Deadline for the November Messenger is Monday, October 12. Contact Tammi Wolff, Editor, with submissions or comments at 402.721.2959 or [tamm-miw@flc-ne.org](mailto:tamm-miw@flc-ne.org).

## LETTERS What You're Saying to Us

God's blessing to FLC family and staff. Thank you Pastor Norm for his visit also for the gorgeous altar flowers.

### **Marceline Bowers**

I would like to thank you for the beautiful flowers that I received Sunday afternoon. I am really enjoying them here at Nye Legacy. Thanks again for all the prayers, cards, visits and the flowers.

### **Marj McDuffee**

Thanks for all the prayers & cards during my recent hospital stay. Also thank-you to the pastors for visiting me.

### **Marge Christensen**

A sincere thank you for all the support you've given Beth Meyer during her term as President of NSWO. Her use of your office facilities has been invaluable as well as all the moral support you've given her. Our convention was a success and now Beth can go on to serve in other ways. Thank you again,

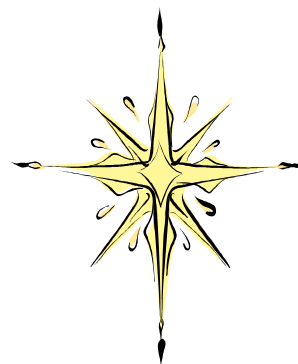
### **Arlene Johnson for the Convention Committee**

I would like to thank Meri Jo Soe for painting the picture frames for our Sunday School class pictures, displayed in the Sunday School area, and for her continuing help and support to me in my new position!! Bob Brodd brought his power tools over and helped me attach the flannel to our new flannel board, much appreciated!! And another thank you to the many people who donated books for the Quiet Bags.

### **Pam Spevak, Director of Children's Ministry**

Thanks to the pastors for their visits while I was in the hospital. Also thanks for the altar flowers after I returned home.

### **Larry Thomas**



## SERVICE How You Can Help

First Lutheran serves a meal once a month at **Care Corps Homeless Shelter** in Fremont. This month will be Tuesday, November 17, at 5:30 pm. Watch the green sheets for ways that you can help or donate food.

**Low Income Ministry of Dodge County** will be collecting the following items: Sweat sets (children's sizes small 6-10), children's mittens, stocking caps and ear muffs. They are also in need of canned goods. Thank you for helping the families of our community. Donations may be dropped off at 549 N. H. Use glass door on south side of the building.

The **Crisis Center** is in need of the following items: Paper towels, diapers (4 & 5), cell phones, conditioner, batteries, stamps, monetary donations, cleaning products, kitchen garbage bags, laundry baskets, new toys, calling cards, laundry soap, toilet paper, gas cards & light bulbs. Any questions call 721.4340. If you are experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault, call their confidential 24-hour hotline 727.7777 or 1.888.721.4340.



**Operation Shield** is collecting the following items to send to our soldiers serving overseas. Items may be dropped off at the Ministry Center.

Body wash (no bar soap please)  
packages of baby wipes  
hand sanitizer  
snack foods  
books & DVDs

cards for seasons  
(holidays, birthdays)  
puzzle books  
(crosswords, soduko)  
UNO cards, Skip Bo cards

domino sets  
beef jerky  
Crystal Light/Kool-Aid single packets  
tape  
Icee/freezer pops

The **Jefferson House** is still looking for suitcases to send belongings home with the kids when they leave the house. Donations can be dropped off at church in the grocery cart in Fellowship Hall.

**TeamMates Mentoring** program is hosting a Scholarship Luncheon on Sunday, November 8th from noon - 2:00 pm at the Fremont City Auditorium. Entertainment by Sheltered Reality, Mike Mennard, children's musician, and Ryan Chandler, magician, as well as a drawing for prizes will be offered along with a spaghetti luncheon. Tickets are sold in advance or at the door: \$10-adults; \$5-kids 12 and under; Free-5 and under. TeamMates matches community mentors with students in the FPS district. Students who graduate from high school and remain in the program will receive a college scholarship. Ticket information: 727-3106.

# HEALTH

## Of Special Concerns

**November is American Diabetes Month**—a time to shine a spotlight on a serious disease that leads to potentially life-threatening complications such as heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness, and amputation.

Statistics from the American Diabetes Association include

- \* 24 million children and adults in the United States live with diabetes
- \* 57 million Americans are at risk for type 2 diabetes
- \* 1 out of every 3 children born today will face a future with diabetes if current trends continue

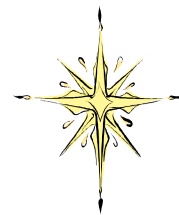
According to the American Diabetes Association small changes in diet and exercise can prevent type 2 diabetes from developing or slow it in its tracks. Just 30 minutes a day of moderate physical activity, coupled with a 5-10% reduction in body weight, can produce a 58% reduction in diabetes.

If you were unable to participate in the September blood glucose screening at First Lutheran be sure to participate in a community wellness blood draw or visit your primary care physician to learn if you are at risk.

Fremont Area Medical Center offers classes for persons diagnosed as prediabetic or for those with diabetes. Education about the disease is important to maintain good control and prevent complications. For further information call 727-3882.

# GOING DEEPER

## Opportunities



### November 1

**Looking for God in Literature.** *The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity*, published in 2007 is a cultural phenomenon. Why have people found it so profoundly insightful or so deeply offensive? How does literature address and/or inform or even challenge our beliefs about God as interpreted from Scripture or Church Doctrine? Can the literary imagination enhance our faith life? Are there works of literature that have spoken to your faith questions? What does an active faith life look like? Is it Looking for God? *Professor Alcyone Scott returns for each session of this series.*

### November 15 & 22

**Looking for God on the Edges:** Learning's from *Hipsters*. As the Anniversary Committee will be hosting a "hip-hop" concert in 2010 to celebrate the future, our leaders will discuss intersections between Christianity and the social group sometimes described as "hipsters" - typically meaning young, urban adults with cultural and social interests deliberately outside the mainstream. Where is Jesus, where is the gospel in the subcultures we hear about?

Lead by: Professors Courtney Wilder and  
Jeremy Rehwaldt-Alexander

### November 8

#### How has God been among us for 125 years?

Highlights of FLC History, intersections with today.

Lead by: Nancy Nielsen and the 125th Anniversary Committee

*Blessed to be a Blessing!*

### Preview and Reminisce!

November 8th is an amazing opportunity to Go Deeper through hearing highlights of the past 125 years at First Lutheran Church. Make your way to the Heritage Room on Celebration Sunday to see characters from past and present. Whether a story from the "pastors' wives at the Ladies Aid" of long ago or memories of planning for the move to Lincoln street, you are sure to be entertained and informed. Join Nancy Nielsen, Esther Freund, Janice Hansen, Donna Ehlers, Steve Pike, and Roger Larsen as they lift up highlights in praise and thanksgiving. Plans for the 125th year will be unveiled on this Sunday. Tune in!

### Renew, Refresh, Reform: The Basics - Postponed - Watch for new dates!

An Introductory Bible Study and Small Group experience is available to you for a special four weeks. Led by Jeff Miller, these sessions will touch on highlights of a basic introduction to discipleship and being a Christian in our world today. Eat supper at church and stay for the study!

**Table Talk Worship with Pastor Charlie & Shawn**  
**Wednesday at 5:30 pm**  
*November 4 - Telling others about Him*

# FEATURING Of Special Interest

**Christian Fellowship** will meet November 6 at 12:00 pm. The menu will be homemade Vegetable soup and bread. Bring your left over Halloween candy!

**Second Monday Men & Women** meet on the second Monday of the month (November 9). Both groups now 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.

**L.I.F.T. (Lutherans in Fellowship Together) Potluck Group** will not meet in November, please join us for Christian Fellowship on November 6 at 12:00 pm.

Are you a church member in need of a ride to an evening event, a doctor's appointment or maybe a worship service? **YOU ARE IN LUCK!** We have an **"Over the Road" Gang** in place to assist you! Please call Jill (in the church office; 721-2959) to make arrangements. Please let us know how we can best serve you!

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

### November Calendar

- 1 Pizza Hut
- 8 Burger King
- 15 Applebee's
- 22 Runza
- 29 Brass Wok

**Operation Christmas Child:** It's time to start filling your shoeboxes and bringing them to church. Watch the green sheets for your ways to help with this ministry.

Our **COOKBOOK** committee is formed! Our goal is 400 recipes for our anniversary cookbook. That means we need the "cooks" of the congregation to step up and share their recipes! Forms are available at the ministry center. If you would like, email your recipe to Shawn (bikerbridgman@msn.com) or Jill (jilln@flc-ne.org). If you would like to bring your family or favorite recipes to the church office, we will photo copy it and Jill will type it up for you! All recipes must include your name/phone number (in case we have any questions). Our deadline for submitting recipes is December 1st so...please get out those recipe cards!

On Sunday, October 4, \$867.80 was collected for the **Houses for Health**.

**COVER GIRLS and PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** hope everyone enjoyed seeing the colorful quilts, prayer shawls and caps at the Sunday, October 18, services. They had all been made by the women of First Lutheran Church. A total of 170 quilts, 25 prayer shawls, and 100 caps were made. The majority of the quilts will be sent to Lutheran World Relief with many going to our local agencies. The caps were given to the hospital, Lutheran Family Boutique, and Low Income Ministry. A BIG thank you to everyone who cut blocks, sewed blocks together, tied or finished the quilts, knitted or crocheted shawls and hats, or delivered the shawls. They will be greatly appreciated here and around the world.

**Cover Girls** will meet on Wednesday, November 18, from 9:30 - 3:00. Potluck as usual is the luncheon fare. Come early, come late, but PLEASE come help us get started on quilts for next years quilt drive. If you can't come to help at this time, more quilt kits will be on the Ministry Center for pick up for work at home. Keep up the good work!

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will meet on Tuesday, November 3, at 9:30 am. This will be a work day as we need to go through our yarn supply, etc. We have used up a lot of the yarn that was given to us. (Yarn is always appreciated.) Smaller amounts of yarn is what is left. So we are going to start making PRAYER SCARVES. Scarves are a very hot commodity in the fashion world today. This item can be worn with coats or just around the neck as an accessory. This scarf will be a reminder that someone has been praying for them. Any pattern can be used. Look for yarn to be available for home use soon!

Are you feeling called to join in the ministries of First Lutheran? Please plan to attend our version of a "new member class," a **Discipleship Training Retreat** on Sunday, November 15, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. New Members will be received on Sunday, November 29, at the 11:30 am worship hour. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend.

## CALLING ALL VETERANS!

As Veteran's Day approaches, we are reminded of the sacrifices made by so many to protect our nation and ensure our freedoms. Operation Shield is planning a special dinner on Sunday, November 15, at 12:15 p.m. to honor veterans of the military and their families. Come, be our guest for a delicious ham dinner, and an afternoon of music, fun, and fellowship! Please sign up at the welcome center or on upcoming green sheets. Please sign up at the Ministry Center, on the green sheet or call the church office by Sunday, November 1.

On an average Sunday morning at First Lutheran, more than 50 veterans of the armed services quietly worship among us. Their periods of service range from as long ago as WWII and as recently as the current conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have served in times of peace and in times of conflict. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ, and they have willingly served that our nation and our world might dwell in peace and safety. Across Fremont, across Nebraska, and across our nation similar stories are told. If you talk to them about their service, they are quiet and humble. Let us, on **Veterans Day, November 11--** and everyday -- show these men and women the honor and respect they deserve. They have served for the security of our country and the peace of the world. And they have done it with courage and God's protection.

God bless our veterans, and God bless America!

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33*

**Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity** is hosting its **Annual Spaghetti Supper** on Thursday, November 5th, from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church.

**Lincoln Lutheran Choir** presents "Stitching Together American Traditions". **Saturday November 14th, 7:00 pm.** St. John Lutheran Church, 701 N. 6th St, Beatrice, NE., **Sunday November 15th, 7:00 p.m.**, Grace Lutheran Church, 2225 Washington, Lincoln, NE.



# THANK YOU **We Are Grateful**

Many warm greetings from Mowo, in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord! Pastor Martin Russell arrived with the much-awaited good news. Many sincere thanks from all of Mowo Lutheran Church members.

This letter is intended to give you details on the use of the \$5,000 donated by First Lutheran Church of Fremont, Nebraska, to help the Mowo Kindergarten.

As explained before, the ultimate goal is to provide a daily meal for 100 kindergarten children between now and next February and to pay the stipend for the Mowo Kindergarten teachers. All this is a great relief to parents who cannot pay the fees because of drought and famine.

As explained in my earlier letter, there are 67 children at the Kindergarten, after some graduated and went to primary school. I guessed that were enough children in Mowo to fill 100 places. I asked for a head-count in every household. To my astonishment, some 45 children of kindergarten age were "discovered". And these are shown in full names. These were not in school because of economic hardships.

Then, I commissioned a careful study of needs. The result, again, is astonishing. A total of 101 names and needs. One of them needs special education because she is deaf and dumb. So, without excluding anyone in need, we have the magic figure of 100.

I promised that needs will be properly assessed. Fifteen need 100% help; nine need 75%, 70 need 50% and seven need 25%. Everybody needs help! So, those who can pay will do so, according to their means. That way, some sh. 2,125,000 will be realized. Total needs, as the budget shows, is sh. 5,768,875 (\$4,615), to cover meals for the children and stipend for the teachers. Help will also be given for school uniform – again on a sliding scale to the tune of \$575. So, from the \$5,000, we shall

use only \$2,915 (about 60%) for this purpose. I am looking for a special school for the deaf girl. I am happy that the school committee agreed to examine each need individually, rather than just provide free meals to those who could pay a little – from each according to means, to each according to need, is good stewardship.

## The Teacher Training

We have received application from two "mature" ladies for teacher training. We could send both, if we could find places for them. We will have about \$2,000 left from the \$5,000 just received, which could be used for fees. Or, we could send only one and pay \$1,000, if you approved of the idea.

The headteacher, Mrs Kitiwi, is Mowo's parish worker. She will need to go back to her job, because the "old" parish worker has been appointed parish worker in charge of the district of 34 parishes. We can use two new teachers – come 2011/12.

## The Building

I received the enclosed figures only yesterday. I need to study them thoroughly. The last two items can wait until most of the rest is done. I do not know how these figures compare with the original estimates (BoQ) done sometime ago. Also, I need to get the details (which are missing in the requisition information). This I can get during the next few days.

I shall keep you posted.

May the good Lord continue to bless you all.

Yours in Christ,

Seth Kitange

# FELLOWSHIP **Women's Ministry**

**Lydia** Wednesday, November 11 9:30 am  
Lesson Leader: Myna Meister  
Hostess: Tracy Arett

Please bring your bars to Trinity for Habitat for Humanity.

**Ruth** Thursday, November 12 9:00 am  
Lesson Leader: Anita Hasemann  
Hostess: Meri Jo Soe

**Faith** Thursday, November 12 7:00 pm  
Lesson Leader: Patti Brownlee  
Hostess: Trudy Tamke

Faith will take an offering for God's Global Barnyard.

**Grace** Tuesday, November 17 7:00 pm

# YOUTH **Jr. & Sr. High Ministry**

**FLYs** (First Lutheran Youth: 9-12th grade) in the youth room.  
Wednesday's at 7:30 pm.  
Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for Bible Study.

**Turkey Bowl** - Sunday, November 15 at 2:00 pm. Turkey Bowl is the ancient game of ultimate football using poultry as the ball. Teams will consist of at least 12 people. This event is open to all Sr. High youth groups in the surrounding areas. Cost is one frozen turkey per 6 youth in attendance. Contact Jeremy for more information.



# WORSHIP NEWS Fall

Our October Children's Time (8:00 & 11:00) explored God's Word in our lives and in our worship. November Children's Time will emphasize our prayers, the giving of our gifts, the sharing of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and music in our worship.

## November 1

All Saints Sunday  
Communion at 8:00, 9:30, 11:00

## November 8

Celebration Sunday – Guest Preacher  
Communion at 11:00

## November 15

Recognition of Veterans  
Communion at 8:00, 9:30, 11:00  
Donut Hole Sunday (between services)

## November 22

Christ the King Sunday  
Communion at 11:00  
Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Blessing

## November 25

Thanksgiving Eve Worship with Communion

## November 26

Thanksgiving Day Worship with Communion

## November 29

1st Sunday of Advent  
No Communion at any service (5th Sunday of the month)

# STEWARDSHIP Financial Giving

	General Fund Pledged Receipts			Building Fund Receipts		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
January	45,393.50	53,355.50	49,293.50	12,636.99	10,907.50	5,514.50
February	42,963.50	52,211.80	55,906.00	11,050.50	11,977.82	16,928.50
March	53,460.50	59,293.50	69,420.91	17,086.50	24,000.25	10,675.50
April	64,334.49	52,909.50	53,852.50	31,757.50	19,493.50	8,251.50
May	47,232.50	47,655.50	57,642.00	128,933.67	15,279.50	16,093.50
June	45,392.50	59,112.03	47,096.50	15,509.97	22,959.50	6,717.50
July	55,044.50	47,055.90	56,141.50	70,392.19	20,569.50	6,113.25
August	52,402.50	52,925.00	56,683.00	31,289.50	11,121.75	6,919.25
September	<u>57,015.75</u>	<u>54,861.50</u>	<u>49,940.50</u>	<u>19,244.24</u>	<u>21,046.13</u>	<u>4,203.50</u>
Total to Date	463,239.74	479,380.23	495,976.41	337,901.06	157,355.45	81,417.00

	2009 General Fund			2008 General Fund		
	Receipts	Expenses	Net Income	Receipts	Expenses	Net Loss
September	53,311.74	55,359.63	(2,047.89)	57,076.68	97,042.99	(39,966.31)
Total to Date	525,769.81	519,828.03	5,941.78	516,722.56	525,132.83	(8,410.27)

September was a low month for collections, resulting in a small loss. Actual pledged giving is behind budgeted pledged giving by over \$46K. So Please Meet Your Pledge! We look forward to a strong fourth quarter of giving. The budget committee is working on the 2010 budget which begins with Consecration Sunday. Pledged giving is critical in estimating our budget and what we have available for the missions and ministry of First Lutheran Church. Please respond faithfully. Sincerely, Kent Speicher, Church Treasurer. PS. We need \$42K to payoff the Church debt, anyone game?

The **MINISTRY CENTER** is available to current members as well as visitors and will include sign-ups for current ministry opportunities sponsored by First Lutheran Church as well as community events. Currently patterns and yarn are available for persons interested in knitting or crocheting baby hats. Be sure and check this ministry center to see what is "going on" and "soon to happen" and be sure and volunteer to be a part of it.

The First Lutheran Church **WELCOME CENTER** will be staffed on Sunday morning and available with information for a newcomer or visitor. Visitor bags are available and if you have any questions, please direct them to the individual at the Center. General information is available for the newcomer or visitor and includes copies of previous announcements, current Messenger and highlights of the ministry here.

# STATEMENTS OF Faith

God is my Almighty Savior, the forgiver of all my sins. Without God nothing would be possible. Being a Christian has helped me learn three important things, faith, hope and heart. You must have faith in yourself to accomplish anything. You must keep hope alive, and you must have a heart to love one another as God loves us. In Luke 1:34 it says "for nothing is impossible with God." God will always be there with me, he will never give up on me. I believe Jesus will help me throughout high school and college and help me become successful in everything I strive for. I know I can always talk to Jesus about anything and He will answer my prayers. I have enjoyed spreading the work of the Lord through Zoe and plan to continue that ministry with Spoudazo. Jesus died on the cross for everyone and all should know that. I know I will always have Jesus on my side for my whole life.

**Blair Alberts**

Every day Jesus has something planned for me, and everyone. Whether it's good or bad. And sometimes we just don't understand why. We all ask ourselves, why did this happen to me? Well now going through all my problems and highlights in my life, I've come to realize it all happens for a reason, a reason for God to show his love for me. January 26, 2009 was a turning point in my life line journey. Sitting in a little room just waiting for the doctors to come out and give us the news, family all gathered around Grandma Dart's hospital bed. Pastor Norm came to give our last prayers with her. We all made the decision to let her go: even as hard as it was God was there to support us. Crying and holding hands, the family began to leave the room. The next couple of days were hard on all of us. We still think of her today and all the good memories we made. I think that being a Christian helped me get through this hard time. God helped me realize that he had it all planned. So I'm here today to tell you it all happens for a reason for God to show his love for you.

**Haley Boyer**

My Jesus –my life line. Jesus is like a life line, without him I could not live. He is my everything, my savior, my strength, my hero. Without him I would be no one. He is the one who made me, Brooke, child of God. I am happy to call myself a Christian. It has helped me in many different situations, from making a simple daily choice, to helping me out with my grandpa's death. I know I will be able to depend on him in the future as well. Joshua 1:9 says, "have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your god will be with you wherever you go." God has done a lot for me He has blessed me with this life I live and has given me a loving family and friends. "God gave his one and only son so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Jesus is important to me because I know every day he forgives my sins and loves me unconditionally. He is my Jesus-my life line.

**Brooke Fenske**



Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do anything through Him who gives me strength." A few examples: My Christian faith has given me the strength to attempt to always stand up for what I believe is right. It has given me the strength to be respectful of others despite their differences, and not to judge, because that is simply not my place to do so. My Christian faith has given me strength to be open minded to other ideas, whether they be what I believe to be "correct" or not. My Christian faith has taught me to be compassionate towards all of God's creations, both big and small. My Christian faith has given me the strength to always strive to be a better person, even while knowing perfection isn't possible. My Christian faith has given me the strength and the tools to go and spread the good news, because I'm confident that anything is achievable through He who gives me strength.

**Nathan Hittle**

What does Jesus mean to me? What does he do for me? The answers are quite simple. Everything! Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. He is the one who is always there for me and never lets me down. Jesus died on the cross to give me eternal life and forgiveness. Without him our life after death would have no meaning. I down that Jesus and God love me. To me this means there will always be someone looking out for me. He gives me hope in times of despair, and brings brightness to things that are already full. He makes everything better. God is so important because he gives meaning to life. I look forward to continuing my life beside Jesus because I want to do things rights. Ever since the beginning he has been there for me, so I want to end helping him. I am looking forward to going to church, reading the bible, and helping others. Being a Christian has given me a deeper look at things and helped me realize what is important in life. Exodus 15:2 – the Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation: this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

**Caitlin Kroupa**

I try to think about Jesus in all situations that I come up against. I try to think about what Jesus would do in these situations. This helps me to do the right thing and make good choices. There have been times with my friends when we have gone the other way because we saw some other kids making not so good choices. Being a Christian has affected my life because I have always had the security of knowing I have a church home and family, and always will. Being a Christian is important to me because I will always have someone to talk to even when I am alone. God has given me my life and my family. I feel very fortunate to be blessed with all the good things I have. I think that Jesus dying for me showed just how much He loves me. I can try to make good choices and love others, just as he did. I do believe that God loves me. So in my life, I can praise Him and live in a way that would please him. God is important to me because He provides for me, and He loves me. I believe that God will always be a big part of my life.

**Taylor Lindgren**