

**PASTOR:**

Emily McCreery  
308.530.7175

**ADMIN ASSIST:**

Mia Cauffman

**MUSIC****DIRECTOR:**

Jennifer  
Smallcomb

**BELL****DIRECTOR:**

Jill Dolan

**Treasurer:**

Vern Ehlers

**CLERK OF****SESSION:**

Amy Cauffman

**DEACON****MODERATORS:**

Sheri

Hoschouer

Scott Baker

**PW****MODERATOR:**

Dixie Francis

**Elders:**

Jon Beggs

Amy Cauffman

Shad Connick

Marcia Henline

Chuck Francis

Cheryl

MacDonald

Deb Weitzel

Jim Whitney

Kay Wright

**Deacons:**

Melinda Baker

Scott Baker

Gracelyn

Cauffman

Sheri

Hoschouer

Cyndee Orr

Scott Orr

Bev Sallee

Cecil Sallee

David Schiel

Joy Schiel

Rich Shaw

June Shaw

**OFFICE HOURS**

**MON-THURS**

**11-3**

# Church & Home

1901 West Leota Street, North Platte, NE 69101  
(308) 532-1083 [www.fpcnp.org](http://www.fpcnp.org)

February 2026



Many months in this space I have an idea to write about, but I am not able to fully develop it. Or I have assignments and papers to write for class, so this writing piece takes a back seat. Or I have so many ideas that I struggle to narrow down just one to fit 600 words or so.

This month was different.

I had a million thoughts, but they all led back to one idea.

In the gospel of Mark in the Greek New Testament, chapter 12, some disciples were debating with each other when a scribe, a city clerk or teacher, joined in the conversation. Jesus was asked by a scribe, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus responded with "The most important is, Hear O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one." Jesus continued, "And love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

"Second of these, love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these."

Jesus tells those in attendance, and it was recorded for the other generations to hear, that God is the only God and we are to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. In loving God with all of our being, we are also called to love our neighbor as ourselves. As Christ says, "no other commandment is greater than these."

Two statements. Two items on the to-do list.

1. There is only one God and love that God with our whole selves.
2. Love our neighbors as ourselves.

These two commandments work in unison. As Christians, one cannot be done without completing the other one. We cannot love God with every ounce of our human selves and forget about loving our neighbors. Or ignore loving our neighbors. Or exclude our neighbors. Or hate our neighbors.

If we are to love God as commanded, we must love our neighbors as ourselves. It is not one or the other. We do not get to pick which one we will do today and skip the other. These two commandments are a package. "No other commandment is greater than these."

THESE. Together. Both.

To love God completely, we *must* love our neighbors. Love.

The Greek word for "love" is "ἀγαπάω" (agapao). It is described as the act or action of love that God has for us. It is the love that God's people – you and me – are to have for God and all other people. Including enemies. God built us to encompass all this love. We are not going to run out of love to give. There is plenty of love in each of us to love *all* others. We just have to let it out.

Perhaps our neighbors make choices that we do not like. That does not stop us from loving them. We can love without liking everything about a person. That is how we are built. That is how God designed us.

Our neighbors – both directionally and morally – need to be loved by us. We need to be loved by our neighbors. No matter skin tone, hair or eye color, size, shape, political status, sexual orientation, gender, social status, ethnicity, immigration status, or any other label that is intended to describe or divide.

Two commandments and both are directing us to love. Not judge. It is our job, our calling by God, to love everyone. Not to judge or condemn their choices, no matter what they are.

Love – Share it. Share all of it.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Emily

## We are praying for you ...

Contact church office to be  
placed on the prayer list  
Printed list in worship bulletin  
Names read during services

### Prayer Request

Justin Durboraw, Donna Effenbeck, Sheri  
Hoschouer, Cheryl Kurth, Keaton Kloss, Dennis  
Lombardi, Louise Steele, & Mark McKenzie.

### Prayer Emphasis for the month:

For peace, justice, and righteousness.

You're invited!

Men's coffee  
fellowship

Wednesdays 9 a.m.  
at FPC



## Scholarship opportunity

Available for high school seniors  
or current college students

Deadline March 15 for Fall 2026 monies

Forms available in the church office or [www.fpcnp.org](http://www.fpcnp.org)



### February Birthdays



2 – Malcolm Henline

19 – Rhys Pierce

7 – Danny Ridgway

21 – Porter Connick

7 – Robert Weber

24 – Leigh Henline

14 – Kason Baker

24 – Eldon Walters

16 – Nadia Henline

25 – Mike Leibhart

## Feb. 8 after worship

- Soup served in FLC,  
carry-out available
- Canned soup drive  
for Grace Ministries  
through February



Deacons Fundraiser

### Seeking household furniture donations

Community give-a-way

March 21 • 9 am – 1 pm

Bring gently used items  
to FPC between 3/9–3/20

Please no knick-knacks.



## Scout Sunday

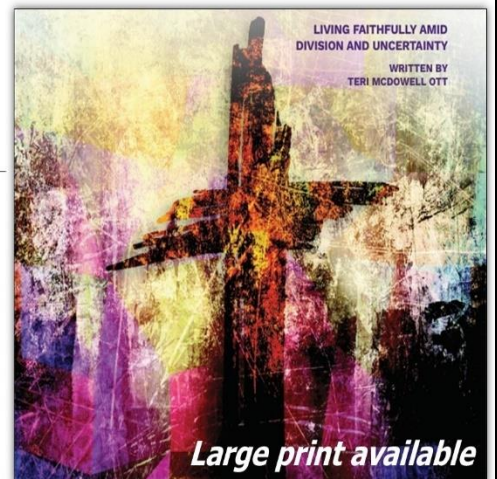
March 15

Scouts to serve  
soup, pie lunch  
following worship

## Lenten Devotional

Devotions  
emailed weekly

Full booklet  
available via email  
or print



LIVING FAITHFULLY AMID  
DIVISION AND UNCERTAINTY  
WRITTEN BY  
TERI MCDOWELL OTT

Large print available





Thank you everyone for your care & support these past few weeks. Each and every prayer has been a blessing. God's blessings for each of you.  
-Connie McCreery

I am blessed to be a member of this congregation. Thank you for the prayers, visits, flowers and cards. Deacons, I loved the turkey & chocolates. It was a nice surprise. Thank you all!  
-Cheryl Kurth

God calls us to help others. In response to that call, FPC will be hosting a community household giveaway on March 21 in the Family Life Center. Community members will be invited to visit on March 21 from 9 am - 1 pm and take what items they need. There will be no cost for any items.

To answer this call, we are looking for gently used household items as donations. Items may include, but are not limited to: living room furniture (sofas, chairs, end tables, TVs, TV stands); bedroom furniture (bedroom sets, dressers, mattresses, nightstands, bed frames); dining tables; kitchenware (utensils, pots and pans, food storage containers); blankets, backpacks, and lamps. Clothing or knick-knacks are not accepted.

All items may be dropped off in the Family Life Center during church office hours March 16-19. If you need help transporting your items, please call the church office before March 16, and a church member will assist you.

The Deacons will graciously help steward this response.

**PLEASE consider donating your gently-used items to this cause.**



Seeking household furniture donations

Community give-a-way

March 21 · 9 am – 1 pm

Bring gently used items to FPC between 3/15-3/20

Please no knick-knacks.

*"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."  
~ Galatians 6:2*

In Christ and appreciation,  
Pastor Emily

## ***Fun planting activity during Children's Sermon.***



*"Baptizing the plant."*

## **Installation & Ordination**





## Ash Wednesday

- Service with ashes
- Holy Communion
- Feb. 18 at 7 pm
- Episcopal Church of Our Savior  
203 West Fourth Street



*"You are dust, and to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:19*

## Communal worship services

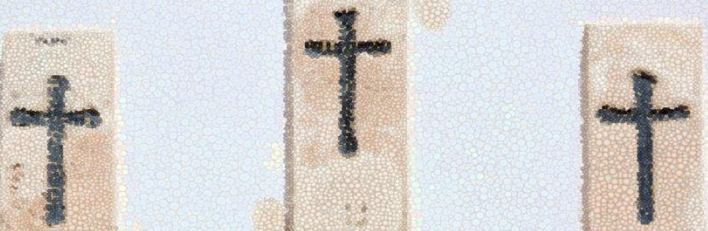
**Ash Wednesday**  
@ ECOS with Pr. Patrick

**Maundy Thursday**  
@ FELC with Pr. Emily

**Good Friday**  
@ FPC with Fr. Steve



## Stations of the Cross



**Each Wednesday during Lent @ noon**  
**Soup lunch & learn to follow**

*Episcopal Church of Our Savior • 203 West Fourth Street*

## PALM SUNDAY

March 29, 2026

with Holy Communion  
10 am



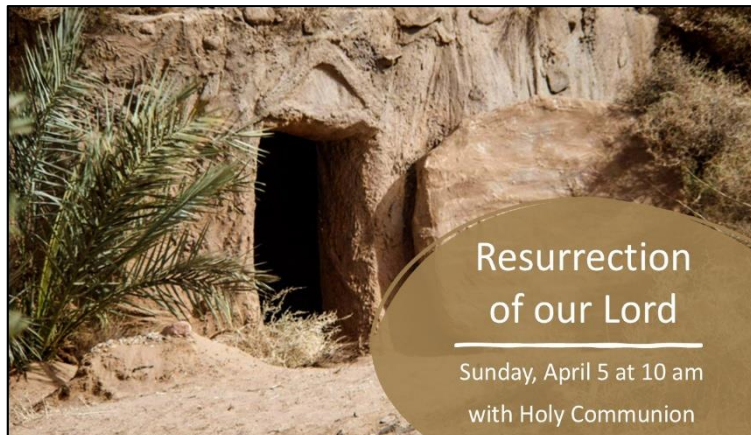
## Maundy Thursday

with Holy Communion



April 2 • 7 pm

*First Lutheran Church • 305 West Fifth St.*



## Resurrection of our Lord

Sunday, April 5 at 10 am  
with Holy Communion

## Good Friday

April 3, 2026 • 7 pm

*First Presbyterian Church • 1901 West Leota St.*



# Holy Week



# Grace Ministries Food Pantry

February 2026

## DONATIONS

Lincoln County Courthouse employees

Sheri Hoschouer

Terry

JoAnn Bowman

United Methodist Women

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church LWML

First Presbyterian Church Thanksgiving Offering

First Presbyterian Christmas Offering

Also

Mid Nebraska Community Foundation Year End Giving:

Joseph Whyte

Jay Favinger

Candy Spady

Julie Harmon

Brian Phares

Brian gallagher

Anonymous (2)



For 2025 :

- We provided food to 1,576 households which housed 4,330 individuals, the highest numbers on record.
- We gave out at least 98,300 lbs of food, likely much, much higher.
- We received 13 deliveries from the food bank, which brought 20,280 lbs.
- 10,138 lbs of food was donated by local groups.
- We purchased at least 67,000 lbs of food at a cost of over \$50,000.
- Cash donations of \$40,513 came in 2025.
- Our expenses for 2025 totaled \$58,696.43.

We have 36 volunteers: 20 from First Presbyterian, 6 from Episcopal Church of Our Savior, 6 from First Evangelical Lutheran, 1 from First United Methodist, and 3 from the community. We ALWAYS need more volunteers.

Wonderful, generous giving from our community has been such a blessing to Grace Ministries! We are so thankful for the gifts of food and funds that we received in the last quarter of 2025 and January 2026 as well. It will ensure that the Pantry can continue for longer than we had thought.

We continue to buy a large percentage of our food at retail prices. Fresh Foods is working with us to get us sale prices whenever possible. We have finally built up some points from their new reward system, and were able to get 19 gallons of milk FREE this past month! That was pretty exciting! They also donate our brown paper sacks.

### Co-Directors :

Tammy Miller 530-8406

Francine Mckenzie 530-0436

Leigh Henline 530-2601

Grace Ministries Food Pantry operates at 114 East C St.

**PHONE NUMBER :** 308-520-7458 ( Answering during operating hours only)

We are open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1-3pm, except holidays.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>10am</b> <b>In-Church Worship</b> <b>with communion</b> <b>Baptism</b> <b>Live Streaming at</b> <b><a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>10am</b> <b>In-Church Worship</b> <b>Live Streaming at</b> <b><a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a></b> <b>Souper Bowl after</b> <b>worship</b>	<b>9</b> <b>9am Ladies</b> <b>Sewing</b> <b>6pm Scouts</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>9am Men's Coffee</b> <b>@ FPC</b> <b>12:15pm</b> <b>Online Devotion</b>	<b>12</b> <b>10am Morning</b> <b>fellowship</b>  <b>6:30pm</b> <b>Evening Spirits</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>10am</b> <b>In-Church Worship</b> <b>Live Streaming at</b> <b><a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a></b>	<b>16</b> <b>9am Ladies</b> <b>Sewing</b> <b>6pm Scouts</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>9am Men's Coffee</b> <b>@ FPC</b> <b>12:15pm</b> <b>Online Devotion</b>  <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Service at ECOS</b> <b>7pm</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>10am</b> <b>In-Church Worship</b> <b>Live Streaming at</b> <b><a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a></b>	<b>23</b> <b>9am Ladies</b> <b>Sewing</b> <b>6pm Scouts</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>9am Men's Coffee</b> <b>@ FPC</b> <b>12:15pm</b> <b>Online Devotion</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

**In Church Worship Service on Sundays at 10am**