

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

February 2026

1901 West Leota Street, North Platte, NE 69101
(308) 532-1083 www.fpcnp.org



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



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

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

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

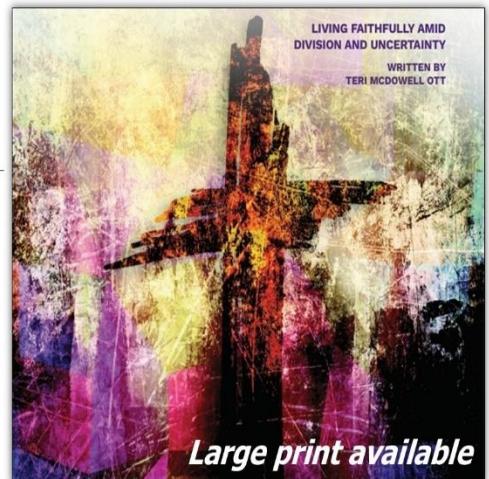
March 15

Scouts to serve
soup, pie lunch
following worship

Lenten Devotional

Devotions
emailed weekly

Full booklet
available via email
or print



Large print available

LIVING FAITHFULLY AMID
DIVISION AND UNCERTAINTY

WRITTEN BY
TERI McDOWELL OTT



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

Each Wednesday during Lent

Soup dinner at 5:30 pm

Worship at 6:30 pm

First Lutheran Church • 305 West Fifth Street

Maundy Thursday

with Holy Communion



April 2 • 7 pm

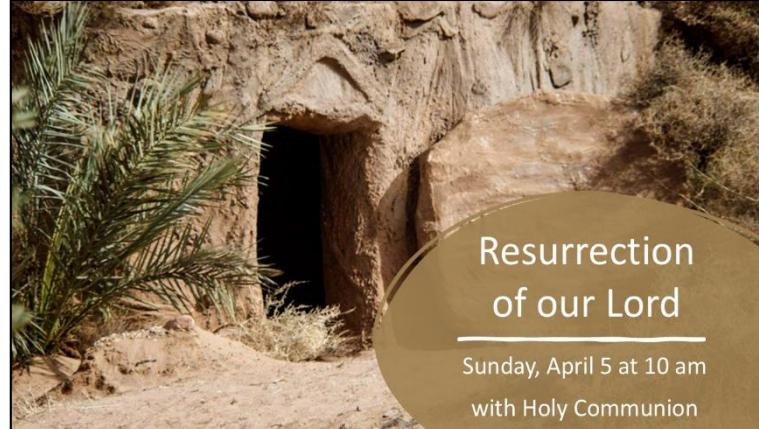
First Lutheran Church • 305 West Fifth St.



Good Friday

April 3, 2026 • 7 pm

First Presbyterian Church • 1901 West Leota St.



Resurrection of our Lord

Sunday, April 5 at 10 am
with Holy Communion

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.

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.

Co-Directors :

Tammy Miller 530-8406

Francine McKenzie 530-0436

Leigh Henline 530-2601

February

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

In Church Worship Service on Sundays at 10am