

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

Congratulations on an awesome annual meeting!

There are some who will think that I feel that way because it was short and easy. They would be right.

Congregational meetings are (too often) interesting things. They are first of all a legal necessity, a requirement of the State of Nebraska, enabling us to function and do business in the upcoming year. This is most certainly true.

Annual Meetings also provide an important organizational function. They are time to review and analyze the current situation. They are the place to select leaders and create a financial plan that will provide direction for our work and mission. Those are important things, too.

But those require more than just a simple meeting. Those require interaction and reflection and are best done individually and in small groups over longer periods of time, which is why we hold forums and publish written reports.

Proper preparation so that we can get to the annual meeting, do our business, and move on.

Which is not how it always happens.

The life of a congregation, like any human organization, is more complicated than simply doing our business and moving on. There are big questions, difficult issues, complicated matters, that cannot be handled in such a format. Which is why they shouldn't.

If you've been a part of the church for a long time, you have almost certainly been in an uncomfortable church meeting, where there have been efforts to decide questions that have only led to greater conflict, where small problems have been inflated into large ones. Church meetings simply become occasions for disappointment. Significant and meaningful questions are not answered.

These meetings are never done, and there is no moving forward.

Which is why a good congregational meeting is one that goes exactly like the one we just had.

So what do we do then with large questions and difficult issues and complicated matters? We treat them with the respect they deserve and the humility they demand. We make appropriate space for all voices to be heard, we engage deeply with the Word of God and the words of scripture, we listen to tradition and we acknowledge reality. We have reasonable and loving conversations together.

We have a process. Not a meeting.

(Pastor Glen's Newsletter Article Continued on Page 2)

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



**WE REMEMBER IN
OUR PRAYERS—Please keep these
people in your
thoughts and prayers**

- | | |
|---|---|
| ✠Family of Ruth Ann Persson | ✠Dana - healing |
| ✠Family of Wesley Todd Sprick | ✠Betty Anderson |
| ✠Sophie Kempeke | ✠Wayne (father of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing |
| ✠Jo Royuk (mother of Anne Chrans) - healing | ✠Gordon Soderberg - healing |
| ✠Keith Hartvigsen - healing from surgery | ✠Irene Thorsen |
| ✠Mick Jensen | ✠Meredith Dickerson - Alpha Gal Syndrome |
| ✠Marilyn Swanson—healing | ✠Zach - cancer healing/treatment side effects |
| ✠Jase Hemminger (grandson of Dennis & Angie Hemminger) - cancer - prayers | ✠Misty - healing and pain relief |
| ✠Patrick McKinnis - healing | ✠Marilyn Svendgard |
| ✠Angela Ulven - healing | ✠Sue Marsh - healing |
| ✠Amie Clausen - prayers & healing | ✠Merriebeth Ferguson (sister-in-law of Merriellen Bourn) - cancer - healing |
| ✠Sunni Wilson (mother of Melody Dubon) | ✠Chris Kesling - healing |
| ✠J. J. Ihrke & Family (son of Carol Ihrke) - battling ALS | ✠Alex - surgery & healing |
| ✠Julia Maettes - cancer treatments - prayers & healing | ✠Mary LaScala |
| ✠Elijah - healing | ✠Martin Kuhr - prayers and healing |
| ✠Josh Foulk - healing | ✠Riley |
| ✠Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer | ✠Georgia (great niece of Debbie Katt) -prayers & healing |
| ✠Trina Kaiser - healing | ✠Kyler Reed - healing |
| ✠David Kaiser - healing | ✠Scott & Katie Abrams - prayers & healing |
| ✠Helen Garnett (Jim Garnett's mom) - healing | ✠Kay Melby (Angela Ulven and Kari Hernandez's mother) - healing |
| ✠Randy Backman - healing | ✠Stacy Thompson Green (daughter of Marcy Bottorff) - prayers & healing |
| ✠Clint Clausen - prayers | ✠Larry Kastrup – healing |
| ✠Mike Boeka - prayers for healing | ✠Leo Aguilar-Hicks – healing for Leukemia |
| ✠Deloris Matson - early stage lymphoma - healing & prayers | ✠Lekura Parish |
| ✠John Wick | ✠Tornado Victims and all those we name in our hearts. |
| ✠Vivian Walvoord - healing & prayers | |

Kids Singing!!

Please join us on
Wednesday, February 26th @ 6:15pm
to hear our PreK—5th graders sing!
They will also sing for the residents at Good Shepherd Nursing Home that night!

*The Christian Growth Board
would like to remind members
of FLC to consider including
the Christian Growth Fund in
your estate planning.*



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



MWM

MID WEEK MEAL

Pickup or Delivery
 Wednesdays 5:30-6:15pm

For Pickup
 Text name & # of meals to 402-533-0918
 NOT REQUIRED

For Delivery
 Text name & address & # of meals to 402-533-0918

**New Christ in Our Homes
are here**

Christ in Our Homes-If you would like a Christ in Our Homes daily devotional they are available at the Welcome Center in the Narthex and also on the usher table outside of the LIFE Center for January, February, and March. The Christ in Our Homes is a book that has a daily devotional to read and pray. Please stop by and pick one up if you would like or if you need one delivered please call the church office at (402) 426-4073.

We are now
livestreaming our
worship services on
Facebook Live.

Please join
www.facebook.com/flcblair
to be alerted
whenever a live video
Begins. This is a real-time,
virtual
worship experience, and we
invite you to join us if you
can't be with us in
Person. Each live video will
begin as the regularly
scheduled worship time.



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

ATTENTION High School Seniors and College Students: The Christian Growth Board is accepting scholarship applications for the 2025-2026 school year for post-secondary education. Any member of FLC that is currently a high school senior or college student may apply. Any member of FLC that is currently a high school senior or college student may apply. Applications are available on the church website or by the Welcome Center. If you have any questions please call the church office at (402) 426-4073.

The deadline to submit an application is April 15, 2025.

Butter Braids!!



COMING IN MARCH!!

Watch for more info March 5—26th!!

Monday morning Bible study

After the resurrection, and after the first generation of Apostles had passed, the Community of Faith remained. And so did its questions. There were significant challenges for the young church to resolve, some of which remain opportunities for us. Come and be a part of the conversation as we consider what we have learned from them and what we have not. We meet on Monday mornings at 9:00 AM and all are welcome.

Rushed on Wednesdays? Let us do the cooking!

Join us for the W.O.W. Meal in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30 pm – 6:15 pm prior to Worship Lab.

**** Free-will offering ****

Come at 5:30 to fuel your body and then stay for Worship Lab at 6:15 to feed your soul.



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Flowers for Worship Services

Would you like to provide flowers for worship services at First Lutheran in celebration of an important event in your life or to honor someone important? We would be grateful for your gift! Please follow these directions:

1. Sign up for an available weekend on the flower chart on the bulletin board outside the Sacristy door. Only one family per weekend please.
2. Mark your calendar or leave yourself a reminder! You will NOT receive a reminder notice from the church prior to the weekend you have chosen.
3. You are responsible to order and pay for a floral arrangement and provide for it to be delivered or brought to the church on the Friday afternoon prior to the weekend you would like it used. The church staff is NOT available to order or pick up flowers for you.
4. You may wish to consider the season of the church and choose suitable colors. Please bring LIVE flower arrangements only.
5. Information about the flowers and to whom they are dedicated must be provided to the church office (office@firstlutheranblair.org) by Thursday afternoon. It will be included in the weekly email blast.

Choir News

Choir rehearsals have started up again on Tuesdays!

We are always looking for new members to join us!
The choir rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the choir room (take the elevator to the second floor and turn left). Regular attendance is encouraged but don't be discouraged if you can't make it each week. You are welcome to join as often as you can. For more information and questions, contact Vince at VKrysl@firstlutheranblair.org

Women's Bible Study

“**The Minor Prophets**, spanning from Hosea to Malachi, represent a tapestry of prophetic literature in the Old Testament. These twelve books, collectively known as the “Book of the Twelve” in the Hebrew Bible, are united by their brevity compared to the “Major Prophets” (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel). They address the covenantal faithfulness of God and the repeated infidelity of His people. Each book offers unique insights into the character of God, His dealings with Israel, and His ultimate redemptive plan fulfilled in Christ.”

The Friday Morning Women’s Bible study are learning about the Minor Prophets. The guide for this study is “*Journey with the Minor Prophets*” by Mary Cooney. “Through observation, interpretation and application the goal is to engage your heart with the living Word of God. Not intended to provide you with all the answers, rather to help you discover for yourself a few of the riches that God has for us in His Word.”

Please join us in the church library on Friday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m. **OR** 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. to learn more about the minor prophets and enjoy fellowship with one another. If you have any questions about this Bible study, contact Susie Pinquoch at spinquoch@gmail.com.

FLC KIDS NEWS

FEBRUARY 2025

A note from Erika:

Celebrate LOVE this month with some acts of kindness! Here are some suggestions!

- Share something you love about one another at mealtime.
- Leave a "You are Loved" note on someone's windshield.
- Give an extra tip to a server at a restaurant.
- Donate food/money to the WA County Food Pantry with a "You are Loved" card.
- Drop off some "You are Loved" cards to the local nursing home.

Go out and share God's Love this month!!
Erika

Next BIG Event:

Kids sing on February 26th!!



Please have the kids in the Sanctuary by 6pm!

The kids will sing at Good Shepherd Nursing Home @ 6:15pm & come back to sing for us at worship.

Looking ahead:

FEB 5TH	All About Jesus: Jesus is a <u>Helper</u> Art and Music
FEB 12TH FEB 19TH	All About Jesus: Jesus is <u>God's Son</u> Lesson and Service Project/Art and Music
FEB 26TH	God's Love How can we share God's love with one another and our world?

Feb Kids Offering:



The WA County Food Pantry provides food for those who are hungry and food insecure in WA County. The food is provided through donations, purchases, and the USDA. All proceeds from Joseph's Coat Thrift Store are also used to purchase food.

FEBRUARY BIBLE VERSE:
MY DEAR CHILDREN, LET'S NOT JUST TALK ABOUT LOVE; LET'S PRACTICE REAL LOVE.
1 JOHN 3:18 (MSG)



FLC YOUTH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2025



Announcements

Verse of the Month

My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love.
1 John 3:18 (MSG)

9 to 12 YG - Fat Putter!!

Sunday, February 23rd 3pm
We'll go play at Fat Putter & have dinner in the Old Market - no cost!!
Friends welcome!!
****Must signup with Erika****

678 Service Plunge

Friday, February 14th 8am-4pm
Open Door Mission 9-11am
Heartland Hope Mission 1-3pm
AND a yummy Valentine's lunch!!
Sign up with Erika or in Youth Nook

Confirmation Topics

6th & 7th:
Spiritual Practices, Service Night, Lament & The Gospels part 1

8th:
Writing Project, Service Night, Spiritual Practices & Vocation

I LOVE YOU

Fundraisers

Butter Braids!

March 5th - 26th
All 6th - 12th graders,
please try to sell 3 items

Funds raised support:

9 to 12 Events
(mini golf, meals, etc.)
Lock-ins
Service Projects & Plunges
Upcoming Trips

9 to 12 YG Plans

- **Feb 2: Sardines & Jimmy Johns**
 - Youth Room @ 5pm
- **Feb 9: No Meeting**
- **Feb 16: No meeting**
- **Feb 23: Fat Putter & Dinner**
 - Meet at Fship Hall at 3pm
 - Must signup with Erika

Micah 6:8



Do justice
love kindness
walk humbly
with your God.

To Serve As Jesus Served... *projects and events of the church, the community, and the world reported monthly by the FLC Social Concerns Committee.*

**FLC AMBASSADOR
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
February 2025**

Our 13th Annual *Have a Heart for Hunger* campaign will kick off on February 1st and continue through March 2nd in support of the Washington County Food Pantry. This is another opportunity for our church to help make sure that no one in our community goes hungry. The pantry always welcomes all donations of food and cash. During February, the pantry has a special request for the following:

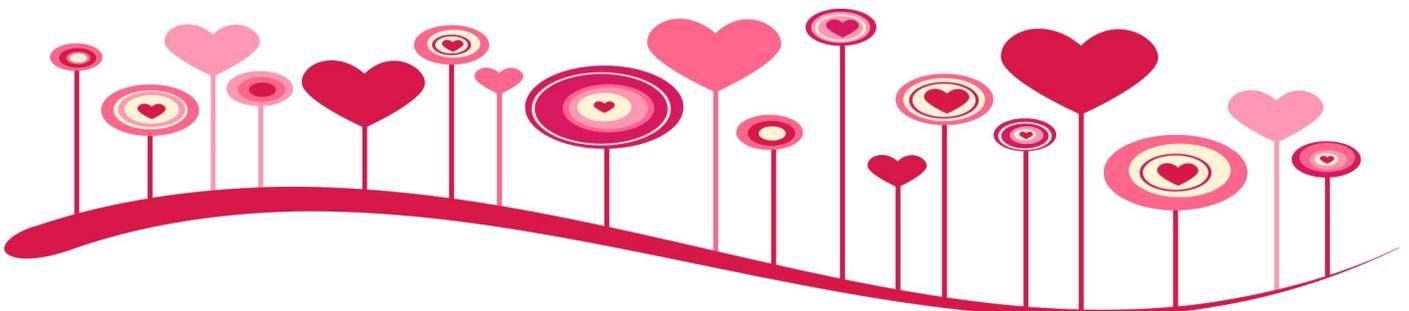
Sloppy Joe Seasoning/Manwich Mix	Cake Mixes	Crackers (any kind)
Ketchup/Mustard/Barbeque Sauce	Spaghetti Sauce	Bagged or Boxed Rice
	Jello	Toilet Paper



FLC will also be hosting a *Family Fare Food Drive* on **Saturday, February 8th from 9:00 to Noon** at Family Fare in Blair. Tell your friends and neighbors and plan to shop then. We can also use volunteers to assist. You can learn more about volunteering by contacting Lynette Jennings (402-278-0164) or John Mark Nielsen (402-427-4443). Thank you for your participation in this very important annual event for our community.

Washington County Recycling Center – On Saturday, February 22nd, FLC is once again providing volunteers for the WCRC. There are two shifts: 8:00 to 10:00 and 10:00 to Noon. Please consider helping us by signing up to volunteer at the Welcome Center at the church. FLC has a stellar reputation among members of the WCR Association, and we want to maintain it!

Oaks Indian Mission – We are looking forward to hosting Dan Cooper, Executive Director of OIM, who will speak at all services on Saturday and Sunday, March 1st and 2nd. He will share the evolving work of the Mission. It was N.L. Nielsen, a student from Trinity Seminary on the Dana College campus, who was invited in 1892 to carry on mission work among the Cherokee begun by Moravian missionaries in the 1840s. In 1903, Nielsen's work resulted in the founding of Oaks Indian Mission. From its beginnings, FLC has been an important supporter. This past July, the Oaks Indian Mission Museum opened on the campus. This was due in large measure to the generosity of long-time FLC members, Phil and Florence Larsen. More details about events surrounding this visit will appear in March's *Ambassador*.



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Church Council Members

Here are the current Church Council Members approved at the Annual Meeting:

Greg Boone, President
 Troy Clausen, Vice President
 Ann Hansen, Secretary
 Jeanette Moeller, Treasurer
 Gail Persson
 Scott Garder
 Ashley Rasmussen
 Angie Hemminger
 Nancy Beaman
 Sophie Kempcke, Youth Member
 Lane Christensen, Youth Member

ATTENTION FLC MEMBERS!!

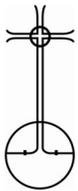
FLC is now using a new database called Realm. This database is used to organize our membership records. This system also tracks all our financial giving, enables us to do scheduling, and Realm collects all kinds of information to help us be a better church.

The really unique thing about Realm is that YOU, the congregation, can update, edit, and control all of your own data in the system. You can change your address, add an email preference, tell us where you'd like to be more involved at FLC, see your giving information, and so much more.

Starting this week, a computer station will be in the Narthex for you to do just that!

If you would like to do this from home please email Vince at vkrysl@firstlutheranblair.org to request a login.

We hope to have all our FLC members update their profiles and begin interacting on Realm by the end of 2025.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
 2146 WRIGHT STREET
 BLAIR, NE 68008
 February 2025