

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

We are a few weeks away from the silly season where we will hear endless complaints about the “War on Christmas.” Before we do that, may I share my thoughts about the War on Thanksgiving?

No, I’m not just talking about the intra-familial debates of yams vs. sweet potatoes or stuffing vs. dressing (stuffing!). I’m talking about the true War on Thanksgiving: the Spirituality of Poverty that dominates our culture at the expense of the purpose and possibility of the holiday we celebrate the fourth Thursday of November. We are convinced deep in our souls that we are deprived and unfortunate, we are miserable and bitter in our conviction of our suffering. It is destroying us, and we are destroying everything around us in return.

It makes us irresponsible. We value only what we make for ourselves, we do not treasure what we have been given. We use and abuse the creation without remorse. We think ourselves makers, but we are takers and users.

It makes us selfish. We are certain that there is not enough for all, so we must grasp for and protect our share. Life is a competition, and we will triumph, no matter the cost. Kindness, charity, and mercy are hobbies at best, to be practiced if and when we choose, for those whom we consider deserving (if we do).

It makes us afraid. We see enemies all around, evil forces that inhabit our dark world and assail us. We are warriors for good and right, our foes deserve what happens to them. Violence in the name of Jesus is necessary and pardonable.

We have abandoned this world, and we have abandoned the God of it, too.

You shall set [the first fruits of the harvest] down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house. Deuteronomy 26:10–11

Thanksgiving is not an attitude, not an inventory-taking, not a memory or a wish, Thanksgiving is an act that manifests a Spirituality of Abundance, the gift of the Spirit of our baptism.

Thanksgiving means caring for all that God has provided us – the gifts of the creation, our neighbor and our very selves. We embrace the beauty of all life and willingly provide for its preservation in all its diverse forms.

Thanksgiving means sharing, sharing fully the things of this world that they might serve greater purpose. We acknowledge that God provides for our needs and so we ensure that others share fully in the abundance of this world.

Thanksgiving means peace. We attend to our inner peace, and we embody that peace in the way we live. We make peace, atoning our wrongs and amending our hurts and standing with victims and the marginalized against systems of oppression and violence.

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First Lutheran Church Women's Craft Fair

First Lutheran Church Women will be hosting their annual fundraiser craft fair on November 22, 2025 from 9am to 3pm. Volunteers will be needed to set up tables, bake for the bake sale table, serve and provide desserts for the morning coffee and noon lunch, and clean up after the craft fair is

Finished. Sign up sheets are available at the welcome center. Contact Rhonda McMurtry, 402-427-3341, or Amy Mommsen, 402-677-3924, for more Information. Thank you for considering to be a part of the craft fair.

(Continued from Page 1)

Thanksgiving means hope. Not in word or good thought but in truth and life. We and heirs of a Kingdom greater than this world, we are prophets to its certainty and to the falseness of the values of this world.

Thanksgiving means love. I borrowed these thoughts from a letter Bishops of the church wrote recently:

- Love insists on the dignity of every human being.
- Love insists on justice for the marginalized and oppressed.
- Love insists that the church must reflect God's diverse, life-giving community.
- Love insists that we listen, speak, and act with respect, even in disagreement.
- Love insists on hope, trusting that God's kingdom of justice and peace will prevail.

Live out your gratitude in love, and have a Happy Thanksgiving!

-Pastor Glen

Women's Bible Study

Waking Christmas morning and knowing that the magic day has come. Running downstairs to discover what's under the tree. Opening a package and finding something special that was selected just for you. Christmas is a day of delights that we can always approach with fresh wonder. But the reality is that it is not always a happy season. Christmas can remind us of past losses, the family we wish we had or our economic stress.

The Friday morning Women's Bible study will begin an Advent study in preparation for Christmas. Come join us in the church library on Friday mornings from 9:15 to 10:45 A.M. as we study together "*Advent of the Savior*". Need more information? Email Susie Pinquoch at spinquoch@gmail.com.

Holiday Greenery



FLC Youth are selling evergreen wreaths, swags, & more!!

OCTOBER 29th – NOVEMBER 21st
Pickup begins November 26th after 10am
 (items located inside Fellowship Hall east doors)

All funds raised will support:
 FLC Youth Fund

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



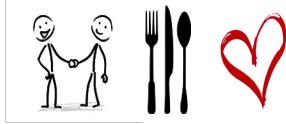
**WE REMEMBER IN
OUR PRAYERS-Please keep these
people in your
thoughts and prayers**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>†Chancey Schwedhelm
 †Mary Jean Rahlfs - healing
 †Alicia (Niece of Deb Katt and Mother of Georgia) - prayers
 †Gavin James - prayers
 †LaDean Untiedt (Mother of Teresa Preister) - treatment for breast cancer
 †Greg Megrue (Son of Betty Megrue) - serious health problems
 †Paul Kempecke - healing
 †Jennifer Novak-Haar - healing
 †Mary Rasmussen - healing
 †Mary Connely
 †Schaapveld Family, Stirek Family, Gubbels Family, Warrick Family, and all others affected by the recent storms
 †Sana and Elley Smith
 †Marcie Ellenberger - healing
 †Brooklyn Schroeter - healing
 †Carla
 †Kari Hernandez - healing
 †Clint Clausen - prayers
 †Ellie Mommsen
 †Greg Reed
 †Mary Frey (mother of Rhonda McMurtry) - prayers
 †Wayne & Carolyn Behrend (Parents of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing
 †Jo Royuk (mother of Anne Chrans) - healing
 †Mick Jensen
 †Marilyn Swanson—healing
 †Patrick McKinnis - healing
 †Amie Clausen - prayers & healing
 †Sunni Wilson (mother of Melody Dubon)
 †Julia Maettes - cancer treatments - prayers & healing
 †Elijah - healing
 †Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer</p> | <p>†David Kaiser - healing
 †Helen Garnett (Jim Garnett's mom) - healing
 †Randy Backman - healing
 †Deloris Matson - early stage lymphoma - healing & prayers
 †Vivian Walvoord - healing & prayers
 †Dana - healing
 †Betty Anderson
 †Gordon Soderberg - healing
 †Irene Thorsen
 †Meredith Dickerson - Alpha Gal Syndrome
 †Zach - cancer healing/treatment side effects
 †Misty - healing and pain relief
 †Marilyn Svendgard
 †Sue Marsh - healing
 †Merriebeth Ferguson (sister-in-law of Merriellen Bourn) - cancer - healing
 †Chris Kesling - healing
 †Alex - surgery & healing
 †Mary LaScala
 †Martin Kuhr - prayers and healing
 †Riley
 †Georgia (great niece of Debbie Katt) -prayers & healing
 †Kyler Reed - healing
 †Scott & Katie Abrams - prayers & healing
 †Kay Melby (Angela Ulven and Kari Hernandez's mother) - healing
 †Stacy Thompson Green (daughter of Marcy Bottorff) - prayers & healing
 †Larry Kastrup – healing
 †Leo Aguilar-Hicks – healing for Leukemia
 †Lekura Parish
 †Texas Flood Victims and all those we name in our hearts.</p> |
|---|--|

Announcement from the Nominating Committee

The FLC Annual meeting will be here soon. Our nominating committee is seeking candidates for several opportunities within the church - council members, Christian Growth, Gifts & Memorials and others. If you have any interest in being considered for one of these opportunities or just have questions, we'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to one of the Following: Lynette Jennings (402-278-0164), Ruth Jensen (402-639-2785), or Brenda Schroeter (402-690-3783). Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

MWM**MID WEEK MEAL****FLC MEMBERS!!!**

Please help us spread the word!

Tell folks about this ministry!

Tell people who may want to volunteer.

Tell people who could use a meal.

Tell people who help fund this ministry.

WE NEED COOKIES/BARS!!

Call Erika or click the Signup. com link in our eblasts to donate 3 dozen cookies on a Wednesday.

Delivery

Text # of meals & name to
Erika @ 402-533-0918

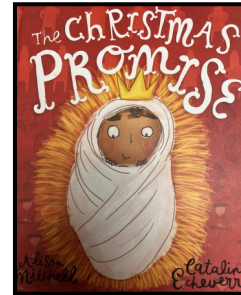
Wednesdays 5:30-6:15pm

Pickup

Pickup in the east parking lot
Wednesdays 5:30-6:15pm

FLC Kids' Christmas Program
The Christmas Promise

December 14th @ 10:15am



Please join us to hear the story of Jesus' birth from our PreK—5th graders, and experience our closing Hallelujah Shadow Nativity

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



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

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Serving our Neighbors!!

Our Confirmation service projects included:

- Tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief
- Cut/tie fleece blankets for The Dwelling in NC
- Veterans Day cards for WA County and Open Door Mission
- Blessing Bags for Youth Emergency Services



At our **Service Plunge**, we had a tour of Open Door Mission, heard a testimony from an ODM graduate/employee, and worked in the Timberlake Outreach Center. We had lunch at Jackson's Fair Deal Café in North Omaha. Then we helped clean up gardens belonging to refugees in Omaha. We worked alongside Lutheran Family Services. **Way to go FLC Youth!!**



MAGAZINES NEEDED!!

If you have magazines sitting around, please share with us at FLC!! We use them in crafts and activities A LOT!!

Daylight Savings Time is This Weekend! We "Fall Back" one hour. Turn your clocks back an hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 1st!



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

FREE 15th ANNUAL

THANKSGIVING

DINNER

ALL ARE WELCOME

NOVEMBER 27TH
11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

CARRYOUT & DELIVERY AVAILABLE

TURKEY • GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE • SWEET POTATOES
MASHED POTATOES • GRAVY • STUFFING • BREAD
PUMPKIN PIE • PECAN PIE

ST. FRANCIS BORGIA CATHOLIC CHURCH
2005 DAVIS DRIVE BLAIR, NE 402.426.3823
TrinityCatholicParishes.org

FOR THE COMMUNITY - BY THE COMMUNITY

Delivery requests due to 402.426.3823 by noon on Wednesday, November 26th
Sponsored By: St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church and the Washington County Ministerial Association



Reminder: Pastor Glen will be preaching at Good Shepherd Home on Sunday, November 2nd at 1:00pm. Please let your friends and family that are at Good Shepherd Home know. If you have any questions please call the church office at (402) 426-4073.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

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.

**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.

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.

***Rushed on Wednesdays?
Let us do the cooking!***

**W.O.W. Meal has started back up. It is every
Wednesday evening from 5:30pm-6:15pm.**

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.***





30 Days of Thanksgiving

DAY 1 A simple joy in your daily routine	DAY 2 Write down 3 things you're grateful for	DAY 3 A skill or talent you're proud of	DAY 4 A cozy moment from today	DAY 5 Someone who makes you laugh
DAY 6 A time you helped someone	DAY 7 An object that brings you comfort	DAY 8 A family tradition you love	DAY 9 A favorite memory you cherish	DAY 10 A friend who always supports you
DAY 11 A book, movie, or song that lifts you up	DAY 12 Someone who inspires you	DAY 13 Share a favorite quote on gratitude	DAY 14 A place that feels like home	DAY 15 A lesson you've learned recently
DAY 16 A kind act someone did for you	DAY 17 A goal you're working toward	DAY 18 Someone who made you smile today	DAY 19 An achievement you're proud of	DAY 20 The beauty of nature around you
DAY 21 Five things you're thankful for outdoors	DAY 22 A challenge you've overcome	DAY 23 Your favorite Thanksgiving memory	DAY 24 Something you're looking forward to	DAY 25 Someone you think of often
DAY 26 One thing you're thankful for with a loved one	DAY 27 A meal that brings back good memories	DAY 28 Something that makes you feel calm	DAY 29 A piece of advice that helped you	DAY 30 Reflect on three blessings from this past month

FLC KIDS NEWS



NOVEMBER 2025

A note from Erika:

Happy Gratitude Month!!

I would like to wish all of you a very happy Thanksgiving season! Each November, we are reminded to be grateful for the blessings in our lives.

We have included a Gratitude Calendar in this month's Ambassador for you to use throughout the month. Hopefully, it will help you and your family make a habit of saying thank you to our gracious God all month long!



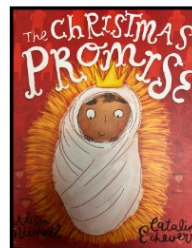
Much love-
Erika Cada

Dir of Children's & Youth Ministries

Next BIG Event:

FLC Kids' Christmas Program

December 14th @ 10:15am



Please join us to hear the story of Jesus' birth from our PreK - 5th graders, and experience our Hallelujah Shadow Nativity

Looking ahead:

NOV 5TH	<u>Week 2 of Gratitude:</u> Christmas program music practice & art!!
NOV 12TH & 19TH	<u>The Christmas Surprise:</u> The birth of Jesus Christmas program music practice & lesson!
NOV 26TH	NO CLASSES - Thanksgiving Eve
DEC 3RD	<u>Advent Path of Light for ALL!</u> Following Worship 6:45-8pm Experience hope, peace, joy, love & Christ

Nov Kids Offering:



We will continue to collect our weekly offering for

**Jeanette Hunt
Animal Shelter**

NOVEMBER BIBLE VERSE:

I WILL PRAISE YOU, O LORD, WITH ALL MY HEART;
I WILL TELL OF ALL YOUR WONDERS.
PSALM 9:1

FLC YOUTH

NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025

Announcements

2nd Annual YouthGiving!!

Sunday, November 16th @ 5pm
Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish to share! Could be mashed potatoes, a pie, candy corn & peanuts, apple cider - whatever! And enjoy a few rounds of sardines after we eat

Celebrate Advent!!

Advent Path of Light

- Wed, Dec 3rd @ 6:45-8pm
- Walk thru 5 stations of light to celebrate hope, peace, joy, love and Christ as we prepare for Jesus birth on Christmas
- Enjoy hot cocoa & cookies

Youth Service Opps!!

FLC Craft Fair - Nov 21 & 22

- Setup Friday - tables/chairs
- Cleanup Saturday 2-5pm
- Help serve lunch
- Assist vendors

Fundraiser

Holiday Greenery Sales



All youth should try to sell 3 items to support our Youth Fund!!

Orders due to Erika Nov 21
Pickup after 10am on Nov 26

9 to 12 YG Plans

- Nov 3: No meeting
- Nov 10: No meeting
- Nov 16: YouthGiving & Sardines
- Nov 21: No Worship Lab/YG
- Nov 24: No meeting

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 November 2025

Expressions of Gratitude: First Lutheran Church has received letters thanking the congregation for its generosity from *Bread for the World* and the *Washington County Food Pantry*. FLC is a Covenant Congregation of *Bread for the World*, an organization that researches and advances policy issues addressing hunger which was founded by former Dana College graduate, Art Simon. In addition to our ongoing ingathering of food items for the Washington County Food Pantry, a \$1,000 donation from the congregation was made from the FLC's Christian Growth Fund. The Social Concerns Committee is grateful for the congregation's support of these important efforts.

The Garden Market has closed for another year. Social Concerns Committee members thank all who donated produce and all who received produce and made donations. Over \$403.42 was raised for ELCA World Hunger Appeal from this effort. Thank you!

Food Pantry Ingathering

This November, the Social Concerns committee of First Lutheran is asking you to participate in a very special response to help our hungry neighbors.

San Andreas Lutheran Church in Omaha, an ELCA mission, provides vital food pantry services to its community. It has served hundreds of families every week, but recent cutbacks and shortages are hampering their efforts to help. At this time they are only offering pantry services every other week, and they still have empty shelves. The Omaha area Lutheran congregations are trying to band together to support this vital ministry.

Pastor Omar is asking for particular grocery staples and does not want anything else. There is a very specific list: canned tuna and/or chicken, rice, dried beans, flour, sugar and oil. Bulk quantities would be welcome since they can be separated into smaller portions by volunteers at San Andres.

We need to also continue to support the Washington County Food Pantry, knowing that there will be additional pressure on people in our own community. There is always a box in the narthex for your donations, and this would be a good time to increase your giving. Some of the best things we can provide would be: Peanut butter, Jelly, Canned pasta meals with flip top (Chef Boyardee), Pancake mix needing only water, Microwave Mac n Cheese bowls, Flip top canned fruit, Individual packages of tuna, Canned chili.

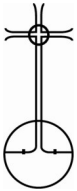
The social concerns committee has decided that these local needs are an important priority right now, so we will be conducting this ingathering in place of our usual November emphasis on ELCA world hunger. If you are also moved to contribute to that, information is available on the ELCA website at ELCA.org/hunger.

Look for the Grocery Cart in the Narthex and put your gifts there.

Bless you for your generous response.

Outerwear Ingathering: The committee plans to continue the Outerwear Ingathering as in past years. Between November 29th and December 28th, a large box will be placed in the Welcome Center or the south entry way. Donations of coats, and especially mittens, hats, and socks are welcome and needed. In the past, these donations have been shared with the Open Door Mission and Joseph's Coat here in Blair.





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