

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR



We know only parts of the stories ...

- Henry Bascom, an old fisherman who lives north of DeSoto, was killed Friday night while enroute to his home from Ft. Calhoun, but just how the accident occurred may never be known.
- Ollie Bergesen died out at the county poor farm Monday evening and was buried in the Potter's field Tuesday morning. He was about 80 years of age and had been a county charge for the past three years.
- Died at the county poor house last Monday, Henry Pelle, aged 88 years and 7 months. The burial took place on Tuesday and Rev. Luepke officiating. The deceased was man of education and refinement, once had a happy and prosperous home, but misfortune and trouble had made him a public charge for many years.
- Mr. and Mrs. Jens Jensen, who live on the Peter Nelson farm about three miles southwest of town, lost a daughter, Christine, aged sixteen years, last Friday evening of malignant intermittent fever.

... but in truth we know little of their lives. As much as their resting places have become tragically lost to time, so too their actual lives remain as unremembered as they may have been unremarkable. When I think about the "God's Work Our Hands" project we are planning for September 6th at the Potter's Field site at the Blair Cemetery I feel that ancient fear of dying alone and forgotten looming over me.

[See more about the God's Work Our Hands project elsewhere in the Ambassador.]

We are naturally fearful that in the end death will prove our life to have been meaningless. But that's the point and purpose of being mortal! Knowing that this life is finite frees us and compels us to make the most of the time we do have.

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

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	1 & 2
Notes, Dates, & Reminders	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 12
Children's Ministries	9
Youth News	10
Social Concerns	11

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed
Monday, September 1st for
Labor Day.

(Continued from Page 1)

A few years ago I read a book called Death (The Art of Living) by Todd May. He said, "Death helps us sort the significant from the insignificant, the aspects of our present and future that matter from those that don't." I would frame this slightly differently by faith: The promise of eternal glory frees us to live this life in the best way possible. I am not afraid of what happens when this life is over – my Savior had delivered me from the power of death forever. And in doing so he has given me the gift of this life, to live well and do good knowing that all I do in this world is a product of that same grace.

Let us confront the truth that church and religion are part of the problem. Too much of our piety is focused solely on seeking a place in heaven as if it were some elusive reward that God dangles in our eyes or threatens to take away. Some of that is intentional. The powers of this world cannot tolerate people who would change it, so it sanctions and endorses religion that diverts our attention from things that are actually important.

Like whether or not our words and deeds in this world reflect the hope of the Kingdom of God.

The aftermath of the recent storms, like last year's tornadoes, sets before us what we need the most: work to do. By the grace of God, in this work we also become aware of the challenges that have always been present and the damage they leave behind: the poverty, prejudice and hardship endemic in this world that far too many of our neighbors suffer.

But this is our purpose, it gives our lives significance. Serving our neighbors near and far, both in their immediate needs and joining the struggle to build a world that is just and peaceful makes life worth living. We must do good now lest we die having done nothing. But we live in the promise that the good we do matters. Our lives matter. We matter.

And the world will never forget.

-Pastor Glen

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. 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.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> †Family of Connie Dahlgren †Family of Ronald Sorensen †Family of John Caskey †Family of Steven Sonderup †Claudia Branick-Spieker (Sister of Nancy Beaman/
Aunt of Laura Pike) - cancer treatment †Mary Connely †Schaapveld Family, Stirek Family, Gubbels Family,
Warrick Family, and all others affected by the recent
storms †Carol Kuhfahl †John Wick †Sana and Elley Smith †Marcie Ellenberger - healing †Brooklyn Schroeter - healing †Carla †Kari Hernandez - healing †Clint Clausen - prayers †Ellie Mommsen †Nate Preister - healing †Greg Reed †Mary Frey (mother of Rhonda McMurtry) - prayers †Sophie Kempcke †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 †Trina Kaiser - healing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> †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. |
|---|---|

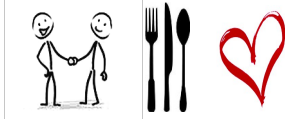
**We are now
livestreaming our
worship services on
Facebook Live.**

**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.**

*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****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.

Pickup

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

Delivery

Text # of meals & name to
Erika @ 402-533-0918
Wednesdays 5:30-6:15pm

**FLC Youth
Gives Back!!**

FLC Youth has given \$2,000 back to the
FLC General Fund in gratitude for the
support shown during our annual Garage
Sale Fundraiser. Thank you FLC!!

Storm Survivor Support

We are collecting funds AND gas/grocery gift
cards to support our neighbors as they begin
their recovery journey.

Please consider contributing to our disaster
fund for this most recent group of folks who
need extra support.

Thank you!!

WE NEED COOKIES/BARS!!

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



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS**“God’s work. Our hands.” is Sept. 6, 2025!**

On Saturday, September 6th, First Lutheran Church will be joining our ELCA siblings across the country for a National Day of Service called “God’s Work, Our Hands” Day, performing acts of love and service for our community and our neighbors. This year we are undertaking an extremely ambitious project – the recovery of the Potter’s Field at the Blair Cemetery.

This will involve cutting weeds and undergrowth, removing small trees and shrubs from the area and rebuilding the entrance, embankment and road. You will to be able to navigate an moderate embankment to reach the Potters field site where the work will be done. Make sure you wear good shoes, long pants and long sleeve shirts and good work gloves. If you can bring tools like small chain saws, weed eaters, lopping shears, rakes and shovels that will be helpful.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex with these and other details.

There will also be need for logistical support, including preparing snacks and a meal for the day. You can indicate on the sign-up sheet what you can do for the day.

We want to give our thanks to Steve Hytrek of NU View Land Solutions for his work at removing trees from site. He also offered us some good advice on the project and did an incredible job to make it possible for us to take on the next stage. If you need tree removal work done at your home, we surely recommend him!

This is the beginning of a long-term project which will hopefully come to involve other churches and groups from the community to maintain the Potter’s Field going forward. Our prayer is that by our leadership others in the community will join the work to honor and keep this sacred space.

Women of First Lutheran

Every Tuesday morning from 8:30 to 12:00, women of First Lutheran are meeting for the Love Days. We meet in the Quilt Room, just left off of the elevator in the basement. We work on quilts that are given away to mission of the area and Lutheran World Relief. You are welcome to come anytime during the 8:30 to 12:00 time period! We tie quilts, pin and sew bindings! We make tops, middles, and backs for the quilts and cut squares of fabric for the blocks. Please come and join us on Tuesdays anytime during 8:30 to 12:00 to help make quilts available to distribute to others. You don't need to know how to sew to help in making the quilts.

Kits for Lutheran World Relief

We are in the process of putting together Health, School, and Baby Kits. You can make a donation for these kits by giving a check made out to Women of First Lutheran with kits in the memo line. Supplies will then be purchased to complete these kits which are sent to Lutheran World Relief in the fall. Some items you can purchase for the kits are: 24 box crayons, pencils, Bic pens, 70 page notebooks, 12 inch rulers, Ivory Bar Soap, and hand towels. A tote to collect these items is in the basement by The Quilt Room door.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Financial Update

Dear Members of First Lutheran Church,

As summer comes to a close, I wanted to provide a brief update on how the church is doing financially.

Through the end of July, FLC's offering revenues are below budget \$53,000. While our general fund balance remains adequate at \$68,245, it will likely get depleted unless offering revenues return to budgeted levels. Our budgeted revenue for the remainder of the year is \$272,000 (approximately \$54,400 per month). We have been running \$15,000-\$20,000 below budget per month over the summer. Expenses are below budget as FLC has spent \$8,000 less than budget year-to-date. Thank you to our staff for continuing to find ways to save costs.

We are so grateful to all of our members for their continued support, whether that be financial support, volunteering at church events, teaching our young people or simply praying for the needs of our congregation. Summer can be a challenging time and we often see offerings decline with no Wednesday night services and families taking time off to enjoy summer activities. We have continued to provide so many wonderful events to support our community and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve those in need.

The recent storms in the Blair area have also strained our resources as we have worked to respond to the needs of our neighbors in this time. We are honored that the community knows that First Lutheran Church is a place to go in their time of need, and it is our constant desire to be found faithful when God calls us to such important work.

As school starts and we get back into our normal fall routines, we ask that you assess your financial situation and prayerfully consider increasing your financial contributions for the remainder of the year to help First Lutheran Church stay on track and meet its financial obligations. A one-time donation or adjustment to your monthly giving would go a long way in helping us overcome our current year offering shortfall.

On behalf of the Church Council, thank you so much for your consideration of this request. We truly appreciate your support and thank you for being such an important part of the FLC community.

God's Blessing to All,
Jeanette Moeller, Treasurer

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 July, August, & September. 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.

Choir News

Choir rehearsals have started up again on Tuesdays at 6:30pm!

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



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

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

**W.O.W. Meal will be starting back up after
Labor Day! The first W.O.W. meal will be on Wednesday,
September 3rd!**

**The menu for Wednesday, September 3rd will be Spaghetti, Salad,
Garlic Bread, and Dessert!**

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.*

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.

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.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

FLC Volunteers for Kids!!

PreK—5th Grade Volunteers

Maelie Nelson
Sophie Kempcke
Emma Hernandez
Millie Grace
LeLah Filows
Maren Thompson
Kennedy Hilgenkamp
Nicole Sok
Sandy Yanak
Kelly Leslie
Hannah Grace
Abby Leggott
Ruby Petersen
Lynette Jennings
Cindy Smith
Ruth Peterson
Judy Brehm
Melody Dubon

678 Confirmation Small Group Guides

Kim Leggott
Teresa Preister
Greg & Laura Boone
Nate & Missy Suverkrubbe
Jamie Christensen
Nikki Mann
Jolyn Stratman
Anne Chrans
Rachel Hambidge
Misty Filows
Amanda Nemechek
Megan Starzyk
Sara Lierman
Jodi Cunard
Emily Petersen
Laura Pike

678 Confirmation Faith Mentors

Cindy Clausen
Rich & Pat Jorgensen
Judy Thompson
Loren Havekost
Barb Triplett
Ann Kobs
Laurie Wick
Jeff Smith
Randy & Ruth Jensen
Mark & Kay Dickinson

THANK YOU for loving our kids!!

Reminder: Pastor Glen will be preaching at Good Shepherd Home on Sunday, September 7th 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.



FLC KIDS NEWS

A note from Erika:

Helping Our Kids Develop Conversation Skills

In today's world, it is more important than ever before to help our kiddos learn how to talk to one another, face to face. They spend a lot of time focused on screens, and they miss out on the skills that human conversation requires.

Try these "Table Topics" when you have a minute - at the table for a quick meal, in the car, sitting at a sibling's practice...

- 1) What activity would you choose if you had ONE extra hour in your day?
- 2) Which family tradition do you hope our family always keeps?
- 3) Would you rather play inside or outside? Why?
- 4) Which one? Chocolate, Vanilla, or Strawberry?
- 5) Which animals would you like to see on a safari?

Remember to emphasize active listening, eye contact, respect, thoughtful response, body language, and the meaning of a true conversation with someone. You'll be glad you did!!

September 2025

Next BIG Event:

Fall & Winter Important Dates!!

October 22nd

Kids sing at Good Shepherd Nursing Home & Worship
Be in Sanctuary @ 6pm!

December 3rd

Family Advent Path of Light @ 6:15pm
No Classes

December 14th

Kids Christmas Program @ 10:15am
Be in Sanctuary @ 9:45am!

Lesson Schedule

SEPTEMBER 3RD

The Dad Who Never Gave Up (The Prodigal Son)
Lesson & Service Project

SEPTEMBER 10TH

The Dad Who Never Gave Up (The Prodigal Son)
Art & Music

SEPTEMBER 17TH

Never Too Little! (Jesus loves the children)
Lesson & Service Project

SEPTEMBER 24TH

Never Too Little! (Jesus loves the children)
Art & Music

SEPTEMBER BIBLE VERSE:

Cast all your anxiety on God because God cares for you. **1 Peter 5:7**

2025-26 Offering:



The kids will vote for the organizations they would like their offering to support during 1st semester and 2nd semester.

1st Semester choices:

Jeanette Hunt Animal Shelter

OR

Food Bank of the Heartland
Backpack Program



FLC YOUTH

SEPTEMBER 2025

NEWS

Announcements

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YG ALL NEW!!!

All 9th - 12th graders are welcome to come to the Youth Room and hang out - play ping pong, do crafts, play board games, do homework, have snacks - WHATEVER!

It's a time for you to sit back and relax during your busy week - bring friends!!

Wednesdays, 6:45 - 7:45pm
Youth Room Downstairs

ATTENTION SENIORS!!

Possible Senior Mission Trip

Are you interested in a mission trip in June or July, 2026 to The Dwelling in Winston-Salem, NC?
Please contact Erika ASAP.

I'm hoping to organize this trip for all graduates - info meeting to come in later September!!

678 Info

678 Lock-In!!

Friday, September 19th
9:30pm (after Fball Game) - 7am

All 6th - 8th graders are invited to participate in our annual lock-in. Space is limited, so watch for signup in the Fship Hall Youth Nook!!

Guest Speaker!!

Wednesday, September 24th
6:45-7:45pm

Steve Owens from Fellowship of Christian Athletes of Omaha

9 to 12 YG Plans

SEPTEMBER 7TH

6-7:30PM

Tetris Tumble Tourney
Brownie Sundaes
Service Project



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
September 2025**

**God's work.
Our hands.**

God's Work; Our Hands: First Lutheran Church is undertaking the work of beginning to recover the Potter's Field in the Blair Cemetery and restoring it to its rightful dignity and grace. Some work has already been done by FLC members to remove trees and undergrowth. On Saturday, September 6th, members of the church will be at the site from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon to further the work of removing the undergrowth and cleaning up the site. This is the first step in an ongoing effort and we hope that others in the community will join us going forward in preserving this sacred space.

The project marks our participation in the annual Day of Service called "God's Work, Our Hands" Day. This program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America joins members of congregations across the nation in acts of service and love to neighbors and communities. First Lutheran Church has a long history of service to the Blair community since its founding in 1884, most recently in response to the 2024 Arbor Day Tornadoes and the severe windstorms in August 2025 that caused significant damage in the area.

Volunteers on Saturday morning, September 6th, are needed both to assist in continuing the clean-up and providing lunch. There are two volunteer sign-up sheets in the Welcome Center, and members are urged to sign up prior to the 6th, so organizers can plan. Those signing up to clean underbrush should have work gloves and wear long pants as there is a possibility of encountering poison ivy. Volunteers may also bring their own weed-whackers and chain saws. Children of appropriate age are welcome but need to be supervised by parents. Pastor Glen is the contact person for our efforts in clearing the site, and Lynette Jennings is coordinating lunch planning. Questions may be addressed to them through the Church Office.

CropWalk – October 19th

The Social Concerns Committee is again organizing Blair's annual CropWalk. The date is Sunday, October 19, 2025 with registration beginning at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall and the walk beginning at 1:00. The route will be determined and marked. Look for more information in October's *Ambassador*.



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS**Women of the ELCA - 2025 Biennial Convention and Gathering**

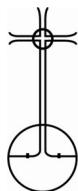
The Women of the ELCA are holding their 2025 Biennial Convention and Gathering, September 26-28, 2025, at a Carol Joy Holling Conference and Retreat Center. This year's theme is "Wrapped in God's Love". Registration forms are located on the women's table outside the Life Center. There is an Early bird discount of \$25 if signed up by August 22. Deadline to sign up is September 10th. Hope to see you there for a wonderful weekend of faith and fellowship.

There will be a basket in the Narthex for tangible items for the gathering. Please see list below:

Winter coats
Mittens
Gloves
Scarves
Stocking caps
Socks*
Shoes*
Boots *
Backpacks

*For children and teenagers

All items should be new or like new.



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