

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

“The church is too political!” I hear it said and I understand it’s importance, but I’m not always sure what it means.

I know that some churches are intentionally political, passing out voter guides and applauding politicians and political parties in sermons and prayers. I believe that’s wrong and I would never do it. But I also know that Jesus spoke to many issues that have become politicized (even though they shouldn’t be) to the point of becoming an obstacle for churches and pastors who want to be faithful to their calling and speak truth where it is badly needed.

And there is a widening gap in the world today between what we know and what we think we know and what we want to just believe regardless. There is great certainty about things that are not certain, too much of confidence in ideas that are less true than we think and a great deal we just do not know but are unwilling to confess.

There is a great spiritual and biblical truth in that last paragraph that I don’t want us to miss. The path of discipleship begins and ends in humility, in the first becoming last, in forsaking the exercise of power for the path of the cross. At whatever level politics is about winning arguments, about governing and exercising authority, making rules and enforcing them, it goes against what Jesus did and what Jesus calls us to do. We are here to serve, we are called to follow, we are not in charge.

God is. Of all of us.

Which is the other great spiritual matter in this: divisiveness. Politics is about choosing sides. Which always leaves someone out. How do we dare to become a part of such un-Christlike work?

I think the heart of these questions requires us to confront a deeper issue: what is it that binds us together as a community? Can we live and work together knowing we have a diversity of opinions and feelings? Can we talk together about anything and everything – not to persuade others to choose our side, but to learn and grow and find ways to better serve as Jesus calls us to? What is “out of bounds” for preaching and teaching in our church?

I want hear what you think about that last question.

The Social Concerns Committee has been hosting a series of Courageous Conversations on a variety of tough and uncomfortable topics to help us start to learn to talk together. These have been very successful. On Wednesday, May 7th, we will have our next gathering to start to speak about the big question in the church today. It will be a test of our courage and mutual commitment. It will be tremendously important for all of us to participate in it to the best of our ability.

There is no final objective for this gathering – we’re not going to make decisions or vote on anything. It will only be the beginning of a larger process, but I think this is a good place to start. Please come and bring your thoughts and your listening ears and your love for FLC.

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

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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.



(Continued from Page 1)

AND, in the spirit of community, let's have a potluck dinner! Please bring a dish of any kind to share if you can. We will provide beverages and table service.

We are doing this because I believe that FLC is a safe and welcoming place and grace abounds here. No one should be afraid to share with others here, and even if you find it difficult to express yourself sometimes, please come and listen and support our efforts to grow together.

And be faithful.

I don't believe that Jesus calls us to be political, at least in the sense that we usually use and understand that word. I believe Jesus calls us to be engaged in the world, active in our community and in the world. I believe discipleship means that we care about what's going on around us and what's best both for us and for our neighbors near and far, for today and for the future. I believe deeply in the life of faith.

I believe we can live that life better. I believe this is a good place to start.

-Pastor Glen

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



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

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

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.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



The FLC Youth Garage Sale is BACK!!
so....**WE WANT YOUR STUFF!!**

Furniture, clothing, kitchen items,
sports equipment, outdoor de-
cor...anything!

We are taking all donations NOW!!
Contact Erika for more info.

***If you like to treasure hunt, please
come and help us sort for the sale!***
Contact Erika for more info.

***Come shop
JUNE 12-14!!***



W.O.W. Meal is over for the summer! **(In House Meal)**

Starting on Wednesday, May 7th you are welcome to order meals for delivery or pick up with MWM since the W.O.W. meal will be over for the summer. Please reach out to Erika and or the church office to place your order! W.O.W. meals will resume when the fall Wednesday services start back up.

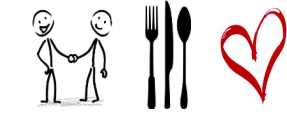
Martha Sorensen

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed
Monday, May 26th for
Memorial Day.

*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**

We serve our meal in the east parking lot
2146 Wright St.

Wednesdays 5:30-6:15pm

For Planning

Text # of meals to 402-533-0918
NOT REQUIRED

For Delivery

Text name & address & # of meals
402-533-0918

**PLEASE CONSIDER STEPPING
UP TO HELP THIS MINISTRY!**

We have folks who have been driving
delivery routes for **FIVE YEARS**. And
they're ready for a break.
So I need HELP!!

**Please contact me if you're able to step
up and serve your neighbor.**

Please contact Erika if you can volunteer!!
All times are flexible—weekly, biweekly,
monthly, whenever it fits into your
schedule!

VBS 2025!!

1st United Methodist
AND
1st Lutheran

**WHO IS
my neighbor?**

Mark your calendars!!

July 14 – 18

9am—12pm

- Can you help? Contact Erika!!
- Register with Google Form or go to church website

**Contact Erika with questions
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 April, May, and June. 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.



NOTES◆DATES◆REMINDERS

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.

The final LIFE Night will be Wednesday, April 30th

Join us and
celebrate another
wonderful
education year at
FLC!! *ALL are
welcome!!*

**Reminder: Pastor Glen will be
preaching at Good Shepherd Home on
the 1st Sunday of each month. 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.**

hello
SPRING



FLC KIDS NEWS

A note from Erika:

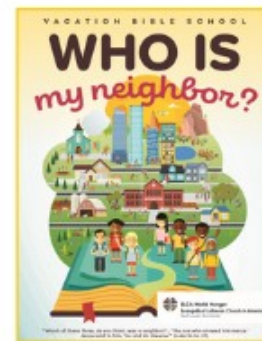
VBS 2025!! **Who is my Neighbor?**

- **WHEN:** July 14 -18 @ 9am-12pm
- **WHO:** 3 yr old - 5th grade (grade finished)
- **COST:** \$10/child suggested donation
\$30 max/family
If this fee is burdensome, please contact us.
- **LUNCH:** Lunch served for all families at 12pm each day - free will donation
- **REGISTER:** Google doc link at www.firstlutheranblair.org or Facebook!

May 2025

Next BIG Event:

VBS 2025



Looking ahead:

MAY 11TH	Happy Mother's Day! Do something special for her today!
MAY 22ND	Last Day of School - Hurray! It's a good day for some ice cream!
MAY 26TH	Memorial Day Please remember all those who gave their lives serving our country.

Summer Offering:



Please consider making a weekly or monthly donation to our local food pantry this summer! You can drop it at the pantry OR you can drop it at church and we'll deliver for you! There is a box right inside the Narthex. Help your kids help their neighbors this summer!

MAY BIBLE VERSE:

I've loved you the way my father has loved me.
Make yourselves at home in my love.
John 15:9 MSG

FLC YOUTH

NEWS

MAY 2025



Announcements

Our May FLC Youth calendar is very quiet so I thought I would provide a devotion for the month...

I Won't Leave You - Ever

Do not be afraid, for I am with you - always! No matter what happens, I will never abandon you. Think about that. Let that soak into your mind and heart.

If you get angry and say something that you shouldn't - I'm still with you.

If you take the easy way out and tell a lie to cover up something you did wrong - I'm still with you.

If you forget about me and live life the way you want to - I'm still with you.

Sometimes the things you do will make me happy. Sometimes the things you do will make me sad. But there is nothing you can do that will **EVER** make me leave you.

Deuteronomy 31:6

From ***Jesus Calling*** by Sarah Young

Fundraisers

GARAGE SALE!!

June 12 @ 8a - 6p

June 13 @ 8a - 6p

June 14 @ 8a - 12p

We are accepting donations now!

CONTACT ERIKA IF...

you like to sort or treasure hunt

&/OR

you could help setup our sale

&/OR

you could help staff our sale!!!

9 to 12 YG Plans

May is a very busy month, so we are going to play things by ear. Watch for texts and emails about upcoming events. Hope to go mini golfing in May or early June!!

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
May 2025**



Courageous Conversation #5 – What Binds Us Together as Community?

On Wednesday, May 7th, the Social Concerns Committee will host our 5th Courageous Conversation. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck meal followed at about 6:30 by Pastor Glen's introductory comments and then discussion about our congregation as community. Each table will have the same two discussion questions and members at that table will select a recorder who will report to the assembled group following the discussion. Church Council and Social Concerns Committee members will be seated at each table to facilitate, listen and learn as well.

Please bring a dish of any kind to share if you can. The Social Concerns Committee will provide beverages and table service.

As Pastor Glen writes in this *Ambassador*, "There is no final objective for this gathering – we're not going to make decisions or vote... Please come and bring your thoughts and your listening ears and your love for FLC." It's about building and strengthening our congregation.

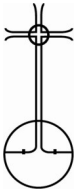
Mother's Day Ingathering for *The Bridge Crisis Center* – May 10th and 11th

The Bridge Crisis Center is a local organization providing 24/7 crisis support, emergency shelter and advocacy for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault. We are once again collecting items to support its work. You may bring the following items to the church on the weekend of Mother's Day, May 10th and 11th and leave them in the Welcoming Center.

The Bridge is committed to providing survivors with the resources they need to heal and rebuild. Your support is essential in making this possible. Here's a list of urgent needs that can help make a tangible difference:

Used Cellphones	Gas Gift Cards	Fast Food Gift Cards	Stamps
Security Cameras (Ring Doorbells, Hunting Cameras, etc.)			Toilet Paper
Liquid Hand Soap	Dish Soap	Laundry Soap	Trac phones and Minutes





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