
**NEWS FROM
OUR PASTOR**

“I'd like to share a revelation that I've had during my time here. It came to me when I tried to classify your species. I realized that you're not actually mammals. Every mammal on this planet instinctively develops a natural equilibrium with the surrounding environment, but you humans do not. You move to an area, and you multiply, and multiply, until every natural resource is consumed. The only way you can survive is to spread to another area. There is another organism on this planet that follows the same pattern. Do you know what it is? A virus. Human beings are a disease, a cancer of this planet. You are a plague ... ” (The Matrix)

There is an old saying: “Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.”

We are experiencing strange weather these days. We go from the 90s to the 30s in the course of a few days, from near drought conditions to water standing in the fields overnight. We experience major storms on a regular basis here and all across the world, to the point where it is becoming nearly impossible to afford to insure our property.

By the time you read this another Earth Day will have passed with little or no fanfare. We started celebrating Earth Day when I was a teenager, but it has never become what it should have been. Important. Even now, as our understanding of climate change grows and we surely know (despite our attempts to deny it) we are destroying our planet, it is the conversation we seem unwilling to have.

Perhaps that would change if people in the community of faith could find our calling to lead this conversation.

Pope Francis once wrote, “The earth ... asks for respect, not violence.”

Respecting and caring for God's creation is an act of faith. It fascinates me that Christians, who are desperate to institutionalize divine creationism against teachings based on science, are at the same time unwilling to embrace responsibility when it comes to caring for that gift. So the destruction of the creation goes on while we watch. Perhaps even with our blessing.

It should be easier than this. Faith should tell us that the creation is not a toy for us to play with or object made to use at our pleasure. We are part of creation. We should live in harmony with it, so we could have peace and enjoy its beauty and its bounty.

If only.

Living in harmony is not our best thing. Sin blinds us. We see the world in terms of what it can do for us or to us. We see the creation for we can get from it. We value it only for resources we can use. Other people are problems, opportunities, or enemies. Driven by ego we live in constant conflict. Defined by selfishness, we live in constant want.

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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.

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



(Continued from Page 1)

God did not make us for such a life. He placed us in the midst of the creation to teach us. In the surprising and amazing interconnectedness of creation we discover how we might live well, be happy, serve better. The creation tells of the glory of God in its every detail.

Even in us.

We are not the destructive beings we pretend to be. We are capable of so much more than this. We were made to love and give and serve and be at peace. May our every word and deed bless God's good creation.

-Pastor Glen



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.
Sale Dates: July 9th—11th

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 Pastor Pam Ciulla ✝ Shelli McGregor - healing and answers ✝ Claudia Brunick-Spieker (Sister of Nancy Beaman/
Aunt of Laura Pike) - cancer ✝ Betty Megrue - prayers ✝ Jayde - prayers and healing ✝ David Latwaitis & Family - peace and healing ✝ Dr. Mariah Meyer LeFeber - prayers ✝ Holly Petersen (Daughter of Marcy Bottorff) ✝ Randy Isaacson - prayers ✝ Debra Harris ✝ Mary Jean Rahlfs - healing ✝ Alicia (Niece of Deb Katt and Mother of Georgia) -
prayers ✝ Gavin James - prayers ✝ Greg Megrue (Son of Betty Megrue) - serious health
problems ✝ Paul Kempcke - healing ✝ Jennifer Novak-Haar - healing ✝ Mary Connely ✝ Sana and Elley Smith ✝ Marcie Ellenberger - healing ✝ Carla ✝ Kari Hernandez - healing ✝ Clint Clausen - prayers ✝ Greg Reed ✝ Mary Frey (mother of Rhonda McMurtry) - prayers ✝ Wayne & Carolyn Behrend (Parents of Deb Henson) -
prayers for healing ✝ Mick Jensen ✝ Patrick McKinnis - healing ✝ Julia Maettes - cancer treatments - prayers & healing ✝ Elijah - healing ✝ Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer | <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 ✝ 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 Kastrop - healing ✝ Leo Aguilar-Hicks - healing for Leukemia ✝ Lekura Parish ✝ Nebraska Wildfire Victims and all those we name in
our hearts. |
|---|--|



**CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES!!**

**Blessing of FLC Graduates
Sunday, May 3rd @ 10:15am**

Church Office Closed

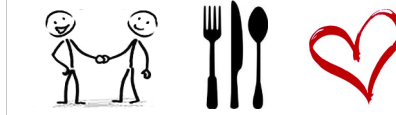
The church office will be closed
Monday, May 25th for
Memorial Day.



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

MWM Volunteers Needed!!

Cooks

You join a group of folks to cook the meal on
Wednesdays 1pm-3:30pm

Servers

You join a group of folks to serve the meal into to-go
containers on Wednesday 4:30-5:15pm

Delivery Drivers

You deliver meals to about 6-7 locations on
Wednesdays 5-6pm

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

The final LIFE Night will be Wednesday, April 29th

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

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

LET'S ROCK THE BLOCK!

Join Habitat for Humanity to help our neighbors in Blair!
Small repairs, yardwork, painting and more

Saturday, May 2nd 8am—1pm

Breakfast & Lunch Provided

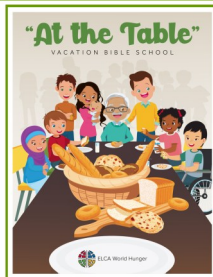
Headquarters right here at FLC!!

To volunteer, click the QR code or contact Erika!



VBS 2026!!

1st United Methodist
AND
1st Lutheran



Mark your calendars!!

July 20—24

9am—12pm

- Can you help? Contact Erika!!
- Register here:



Contact Erika with questions
402-533-0918



Women's Bible Study

Ladies...now that the holidays are behind us, are you looking for something to keep the spirit of

Christmas alive in your hearts and in your lives? Come and join other ladies on Friday mornings as we begin a new study about women of the Bible entitled *"Brave and Beloved"* by Meredith Storrs.

"Women of the Bible are just like us, but their particular lives, choices, and problems can sometimes feel foreign when we read them today. Through their stories, we can glimpse a vision of what it means to be a godly woman, but sometimes their experiences leave us scratching our heads. This Bible study looks specifically at key women in Scripture to discover how their stories upend cultural expectations and reveal the nature and character of the God who created us all."

This Bible study meets on Friday mornings from 9:15 to 10:45 in the church library. No need to sign up, just show up. Questions? Email Susie Pinguoch at spinguoch@gmail.com or call (402) 533-3735.

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

Starting on Wednesday, May 6th 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

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



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.

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.

FLC KIDS NEWS

A note from Erika:

VBS 2026!! At the Table

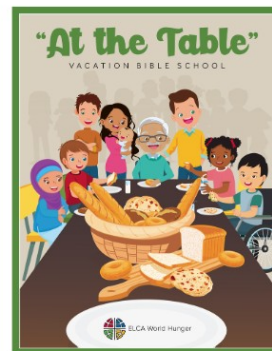
- **WHEN:** July 20 - 24 @ 9am-12pm
- **WHO:** 3 yr old - 5th grade (grade finished)
- **COST:** \$10/child suggested donation
\$30 max/family
If this fee is burdensome, please contact us.
- **LUNCH:** Lunch served for all families at 12pm each day - free will donation
- **REGISTER:** Click the QR code → or find link on Facebook!



May 2026

Next BIG Event:

VBS 2026



Looking ahead:

MAY 10TH	Happy Mother's Day! Do something special for her today!
MAY 20TH	Last Day of School - Hurray! It's a good day for some ice cream!
MAY 25TH	Memorial Day Please remember all those who gave their lives serving our country.

MAY BIBLE VERSE:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:16- 18



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!

FLC YOUTH NEWS

MAY 2026



Announcements

2027 ELCA Youth Gathering



June 28 - July 2, 2027
(plus travel dates prior to 6/28)
All current 8th - 11th graders

Currently, we have 15 students signed up! We want MORE!

Cost: \$100
1st Fundraiser: Garage Sale 2026
Contact Erika to sign up by June 30!

VBS 2026



I need VBS teachers & helpers!!
July 20 - 24
9am - 12pm
Contact Erika!!

Fundraisers

2026 Garage Sale!!

Come help us sort and prepare for our sale this year!!
July 9 - 11
(Setup week of July 5)

ALL 6th - 12th graders are welcome to come up and work in the basement any time Mon - Fri, 9am - 3pm
Just text or call Erika!!

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.

I **ALWAYS** need help sorting for the garage sale & cleaning art and youth room for next year! Text me!

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 2026**



Potter's Field Project Update

Assuming weather conditions were supportive for an April 25th workday, we'd like to thank all of those who attended to help with the ground cover project at Potter's Field in the Blair Cemetery. Watch the Ambassador and announcements for future opportunities to support this important community project!

Mother's Day Ingathering for the Bridge

This month we will conduct our annual ingathering for The Bridge who provides 24/7 crisis support, emergency shelter and advocacy services for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault. A box for your contributions will be available in the narthex throughout May. The most urgent needs include: used cellphones, Tracfone minute cards, grocery store gift cards (Walmart), gas gift cards, fast food gift cards, copy paper, stamps, toilet paper, shampoo, size 5+ diapers and security camera equipment (ring doorbells, hunting cameras, etc). Thank you in advance for your support of the Bridge!

June Opportunities

Mark your calendars now for a couple of opportunities to serve the Lord in June.

The Bread for the World Annual Letter writing campaign is scheduled for June 13-14. Members of the congregation will be offered the opportunity to write letters to Congress in support of Nourishing Our Future. Focus areas will include: Expanding the Child Tax Credit, Increasing Critical International Nutrition Accounts, Passing the Modern WIC Act, and Reauthorizing the Farm Bill. We look forward to your participation in this important annual event!

FLC First Fruits and Garden Market will kick off June 27-28. We appreciate our congregational gardeners and look forward to sharing of their produce in support of ELCA World Hunger.

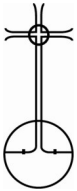
Food Collection is an On-Going Project at First Lutheran

Members of First Lutheran are reminded that they may donate food & other needed items for the Washington County Food Pantry right here at the church. Donations can be made by placing items in the receptacle located on the south side of the narthex. These donations will then be delivered to the Washington County Food Pantry.

It would be requested that such perishable items as bread and other unpreserved foods not be donated at this time. Depending on how fast the box is filled, it may be a couple of weeks before it is delivered allowing mold to set in.

Oaks Indian Mission Update

John Mark Nielsen, FLC's representative on the Oaks Indian Mission Board of Directors, attended the Mission's board meeting on April 18th in Oaks, Oklahoma. He delivered the remaining seven boxes collected during our March ingathering for Oaks. Dan and Ashley Cooper, who visited FLC on March 25th, had taken as many items as they could following their visit. They are always grateful for FLC's support and were especially impressed with the questions and interest expressed by FLC's adolescents and reported so to the board. The Mission currently serves nineteen children and six families. (There is a waiting list for this humanitarian care family service.) The Vammen House is being prepared as a resident for victims of domestic violence. Finally, the staff is preparing a display in the Oaks Indian Mission Museum on Jimmy Marrujo, an Oaks children's home resident for seven years in the 1950s, who went on to become a right-handed, relief pitcher with the New York Yankees. (A major gift from Phil and Florence Larsen, past FLC members, made the museum possible.) Several area schools are scheduled to visit the museum in May.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2146 WRIGHT STREET
BLAIR, NE 68008
May 2026