

# First Lutheran Church ELCA

# The Ambassador

June 2026

Volume 26 Issue 6

## News From Our Pastor

Note: The theme for the 2026 Nebraska Synod Assembly is “Broken Open”

There is a company in Texas that is working to bring back into existence extinct species. That probably sounds like something out of a Jurassic Park movie, but in fact it's real. Colossal Biosciences in Dallas Texas is bringing back to life the Dodo bird. Recreating the embryos is, surprisingly enough, not the most difficult part. Finding an egg in nature big enough to hold the embryos until they are ready to be born is the real challenge. Because the embryos must be incubated and hatched – there must be that process in order for there to be birth.

So they are manufacturing eggs using a 3D printer. And it's working.

It turns out, for Dodo birds anyway, in order to be born you have to break something open.

That is true in almost all of the nature whether it is breaking forth from an egg or from a womb. It is not a mere condition that defines us. The act of emergence is the miracle of birth.

It's not enough to be alive. You have to break out into the world.

It is especially true of human beings. We are imprisoned in shells of our own creation while the world waits for us to break out. We pretend that we are alive but we are not as long as we remain safely ensconced behind walls of our own making.

After all, in the Easter story; Jesus did not merely leap down from the cross alive again. The world did not know resurrection until Jesus emerged from the tomb, rolling back the stone and entering the world in order to change things forever.

And when will we come out of our tombs?

**(Pastor Glen's Newsletter Article continued on Page 2)**

**(Continued from page 1)**

We turn the calendar page on spring as if it was no big deal, forgetting what it was like in the dullness of the late winter when spring had not yet broken forth into the world. We take life for granted, but it was not real until it burst forth upon us.

We are trapped in the lie that we are alive. But have we broken out of the grayness of our existence? We live in tombs made of our fears. We live in tombs made of our smallness, our petty hurts and the grudges that hold us back. We live in tombs made of past hurts that we cannot break through. We live in tombs of bad habits and “we’ve always done it that way” because we dare not face the inevitable truth of change. We live in the tombs of our biases and our assumptions because we think it’s safer there. We are afraid of that great big world out there. We feel safer in the cool dark stillness.

But he calls to us. “Come forth” he beckons. And something stirs inside of us and reminds us that life is yet to begin. There is something greater waiting for us, and we will only discover when we break open the shell and come forth.

The greatest of all human challenges is to find a way to break open from the things that keep us and enter the world with confidence and hope. This is the great work of faith - to not avoid life but to dare to move forward into the day. Every single day we deal with challenges small and large that cannot be met if we refuse to break out of our shells and take those first small steps. But this is the promise of our baptism, the gift of water and Word that breaks down walls, that calls us into life and the great promise we find there.

Life is a sacred gift. As long as we live it.

-Pastor Glen

## Notes, Dates, & Reminders

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

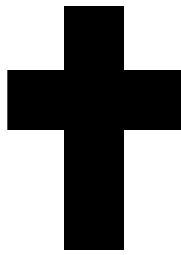


We are now  
livestreaming our  
worship services on  
Facebook Live.

Please join [www.facebook.com/flcblair](http://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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## We Remember in Our Prayers

Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers

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Family of Susan Marsh  
 Family of Steve Sorensen  
 Cindy Smith - healing  
 Sandy Josephsen (Wilke) - prayers for healing  
 Brooklyn Schroeter - healing - knee surgery  
 Shelli McGregor - healing and answers  
 Claudia Brunick-Spieker (Sister of Nancy Beaman/Aunt of  
 Laura Pike) - cancer  
 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  
 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  
 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  
 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  
 Nebraska Wildfire Victims and all those we name in  
 our hearts.

# Notes, Dates, & Reminders

### THANK YOU!!

*For your love, your time, and your dedication to our youth!!*

*Our 2025-26 Children's and Youth Ministries Volunteers:*

Kim Leggott	Jamie Christensen	Ruby Petersen
Teresa Preister	Randy & Ruth Jensen	Kelly Leslie
Nate & Missy Suverkrubbe	Mark & Kay Dickinson	Nicole Sok
Greg & Laura Boone	Rich & Pat Jorgensen	Sophie Kempcke
Joni Clements	Martha Sorensen	LeLah Filows
Jolyn Stratman	Laurie Wick	Emma Hernandez
Emily Petersen	Ann Kobs	Millie Grace
Laura Pike	Loren Havekost	Kennedy Hilgenkamp
Sara Lierman	Kari Loseke	Maren Thompson
Jodi Cunard	Scott Garder	Wyatt Gunderson
Megan Starzyk	Ruth Peterson	Carter Corbett
Misty Filows	Anika Nemechek	Judy Brehm
Amanda Nemechek	Lynette Jennings	Melody Dubon
Anne Chrans	Jeff & Cindy Smith	Sarah Parks
Rachel Hambidge	Hannah Grace	Judy Thompson
Nikki Mann	Sandy Yanak	Cindy Clausen
	Abby Leggott	Barb Triplett



Join us to hear more about the services Home Instead provides.

*"...helping seniors live safely & independently at home"*

**JUNE 7<sup>th</sup> @ 9:15am**

Presentation with coffee & breakfast treats!

[www.homeinstead.com](http://www.homeinstead.com)

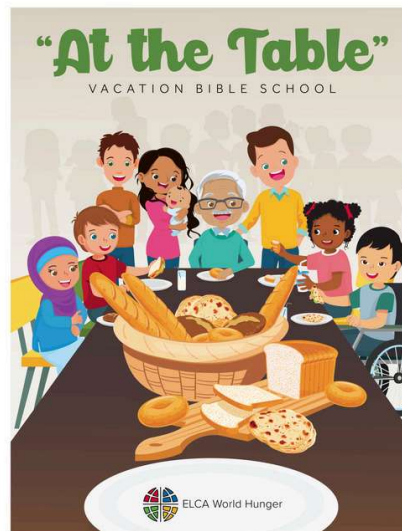


The FLC Youth Garage Sale is BACK!!  
We need **MORE STUFF!!**

**We are taking all donations NOW!**

Contact Erika for more info!

**SALE DATES: JULY 9 - 11**



### VBS 2026!!

Mark your calendars!!

**July 20-24  
9am-12pm**

**Can you help?  
Contact Erika!!**

Register Here:



# Notes, Dates, & Reminders

## 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](mailto:spinguoch@gmail.com) or call (402) 533-3735.

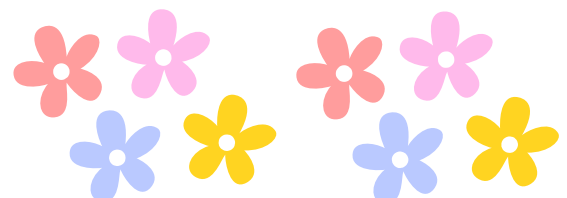
## W.O.W. Meal is over for the summer! (In House Meal)

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

## 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

## 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](mailto:office@firstlutheranblair.org)) by Thursday afternoon. It will be included in the weekly email blast.



**JUNE 21, 2026**

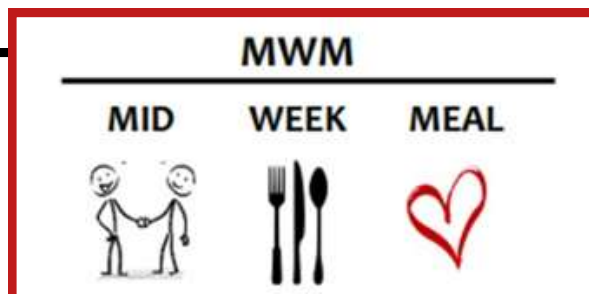
**Reminder: Pastor Glen will be preaching at Good Shepherd Home on Sunday, June 7th at 1:00pm. Please let your friends and family that are at Good Shepherd Home know. If you have any questions please call the church office at (402) 426-4073.**



# Notes, Dates, & Reminders

## Pickup or Delivery

We serve our meal in the east parking lot  
2146 Wright St.  
Wednesdays 5:30-6:15pm



Text name & # of meals  
402-533-0918  
Include address for delivery

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

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

Cooking, Bagging items, Serving, & Delivery

All times are flexible—weekly, biweekly, monthly, whenever it fits into your schedule!



Please pray for us as we travel to Winston - Salem, NC to spend a week at The Dwelling.

We look forward to learning more about God's mercy, God's justice, and God's love.

June 13-20, 2026

Abby Leggott, Maelie Nelson,  
Ruby Petersen, Natalia Roberts, and Erika Cada

## All Roads lead to Romans

### An online Bible study

### Summer 2026

The Epistle to the Romans plays a major role in our understanding of how God works his grace through the crucifixion and resurrection. Every great theologian in the history has learned from Paul, from Augustine to Luther to leaders of the church today. In the depths of Paul's masterwork lie the foundations of faith and life and hope. Beginning June 10, join Pastor Glen as we examine selected texts from Romans which are included in this summer's lectionary readings. Each week you will find a video presentation to watch at your convenience and an opportunity to join an online discussion. Watch the eblast and announcements for more details.

HELLO  
SUMMER

# FLC KIDS NEWS

## A note from Erika:

### VBS 2026!! "At the Table"

#### **WE STILL NEED HELPERS!!**

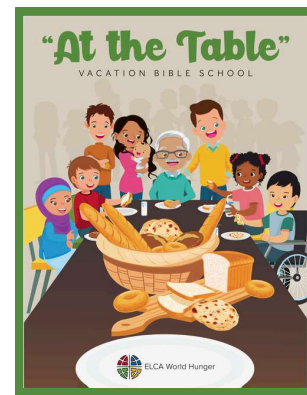
- We are still needing leaders and helpers!!
- If you're willing to help lead a station or a class, please contact Erika ASAP!!
  - If your middle/high schooler would like to be a helper, please contact Erika ASAP!!
  - Even if you can't do every day - we would still love to have you join us!!
  - **REGISTER:** Click the QR code or find link on Facebook!



## June 2026

## Next BIG Event:

### VBS 2026



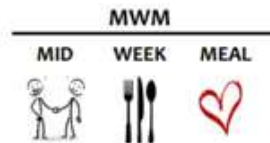
## Looking ahead:

<b>JUNE 21ST</b>	<b>Father's Day!!</b> Do something kind for those who give fatherly love to others!!
<b>JULY 9TH-11TH</b>	<b>FLC Youth Garage Sale!!</b> Thur & Fri 3am-6pm & Sat 8am-12pm
<b>JULY 20TH-24TH</b>	<b>VBS @ FLC!!</b> Mon - Fri 9am-12pm Daily Community Lunch @ 12pm-free will donation

### JUNE 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 donation to our Mid Week Meal ministry this summer! You AND your kiddos can give a financial donation, you can volunteer on a Wednesday to cook or fill bags with fruit and cookies, or you can sign up to bake goodies (link below)! Help your kids help their neighbors this summer!  
<https://signup.com/go/hfewWuF>

# FLC YOUTH NEWS

JUNE 2026



## Announcements

### 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering

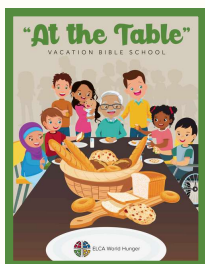


June 28 - July 2, 2027  
(plus travel dates prior to 6/28)  
All current 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> graders

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

Cost: \$100  
1<sup>st</sup> 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)

Watch for a signup link in your email!  
We will need help every day and all day July 5-11 for setup and the sale!

### 9 to 12 YG Plans

#### June 28th

Scavenger Hunt for Food!!  
6:30pm

We will split into groups & do a scavenger hunt around town to gather donations for the WA County Food Pantry!!

### 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 June 2026

#### June Opportunities

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

**Home Instead of Blair** – Representatives from our local office of Home Instead will be present between services (from 9:30 to 10:15) on Sunday, June 7th, to share the resources available for helping those who wish to remain in their own homes as they age. Congregation and Social Concerns committee members have found the Home Instead staff helpful in meeting the needs of caring for aging parents and believe this can be an important resource to FLC members.

**The Bread for the World Annual Letter writing campaign** is scheduled for June 13-14. First Lutheran Church is a Covenant Congregation of Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. It was founded by Art Simon, a Dana College alumnus and Lutheran pastor who as a student worshiped here at FLC.

Members of the congregation will be offered the opportunity to write letters or to sign prepared letters to our congressional delegation in support of programs seeking to address the needs of those experiencing hunger and food insecurity.

Following is the text of the prepared letters that will be available for your signing should you choose on June 13th and 14th:

Dear Senator or Congressman (named),

Hunger is rising and children are at risk. It's time to act.

As a person of faith, I believe every child is created in the image of God and deserving of dignity and opportunity. As your constituent, I urge you to make ending hunger a top priority.

We at First Lutheran Church in Blair have made it our mission to help those less fortunate – by supporting our local food pantry, by hosting a weekly community meal, by offering county wide services to those experiencing disasters, by conducting a garden market in support of world hunger and many other ways, but we can't do it all. We recognize helping one person at a time is important, but you have the capability to reach far more widely across the globe.

**(Social Concerns Committe is continued on Page 11)**

Specifically, I ask you to:

- Restore, protect, and strengthen U.S. nutrition programs—including SNAP and WIC—that help families put food on the table;
- Fully fund and strengthen global food, health, and development programs that promote human flourishing and help keep America safe, strong, and prosperous;
- Pass a strong, bipartisan Farm Bill that supports farmers, strengthens communities, and helps end hunger at home and overseas.

Hunger is not inevitable. It's a reflection of our priorities and policy choices. Cuts to SNAP and international assistance have already put millions at risk. We can and must do better.

In Matthew 14:16, when the disciples asked Jesus to send the hungry crowd away, He replied, "You give them something to eat." Today, that same call comes to us. As hunger grows in our midst, we must act. I look forward to hearing how you will prioritize legislation and funding to help end hunger — for our children, our communities, and our world.

Sincerely,

**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.

### **Gratitude for Generous Congregational Support**

Finally, the Social Concerns Committee wishes to thank the Christian Growth Committee for its decision on behalf of the FLC congregation to assist the following organizations with financial support: Bread for the World, The Bridge Crisis Center, Eastern Europe Crisis Center (ELCA), ELCA World Hunger, Foodbank of the Heartland, Global Refuge (ELCA), Habitat for Humanity of Omaha (Blair), Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, MOSAIC Foundation, Nebraska Synod of the ELCA "Houses for Health," Oaks Indian Mission, Rebuilding Together Platte Valley East (for projects in Washington County), Table Grace Ministries, Washington County Food Pantry and the Washington County Ministerial Association.

# Notes, Dates, & Reminders

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**Special Synod-wide worship service!**  
**Sunday, May 31st at 10:00AM!**

The weekend of May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, we will celebrate with Lutherans across the state with a special worship service on **Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am. THIS WILL BE THE ONLY WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THIS WEEKEND!!**

We are honored to have the newly ordained ELCA Bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry preaching at this service. The worship service will be livestreamed from the assembly in Kearney to congregations all across the synod.

**There will be a special Coffee and Fellowship gathering before the service beginning at 9:00 am.**



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