

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

I think about the way the human body works a lot, as you can well imagine. Or, I should say, I think a lot about how the human body *doesn't* work.

I find it fascinating to contemplate these things we call “growing pains.” It's like a little metaphor for all of life - growth is never easy. It's slow. It's painful. Which takes a certain amount of the fun from it.

One of my favorite things to do is teach about Martin Luther and the Reformation in the 16th century. I have noticed that we assume the Reformation, like all historical events, can be clearly defined. That it has a beginning, a moment, and an end. We attach a date to it and we think that's it. But while we are focused on singular moments like the 95 Thesis or the Diet of Worms or even the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, the truth is that the actual Reformation took 30 years of war and more than a century of starts and fits to finish.

There is a uncertainty to life. Change is never immediate.

And there are growing pains.

I feel that way about March. It always feels like winter is over but it just won't go away. There are days that are bright and sunny with the promise of spring, but there are days that are gray and hazy and blustery and cold with the dying grasp of a winter that does not know it's over.

It's like spring has growing pains too.

Jesus points the disciples toward the coming end (whatever that means) but hedges his prophecy with the words, “Do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come.” (Mark 13:7) So in other words the wars, the famines, the catastrophes, the persecutions are just more growing pains. There is a someday ahead of us, but there are a lot of other days before we get there.

As the season of Epiphany concludes, we read from Jesus's Sermon on the Plain - words meant to draw his followers us into the new life they can live in the here and now. The life we can live in our own here and now. The focus is not on the growing pains but on the pain of growing, the pain of getting better, of maturing in faith, doing something with the grace we have been given, making a difference. Following Jesus requires painful things. Love our enemies. Turn the other cheek. Give with no expectation of return. Do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Love. Love without reservation or reward. (Luke 6:27-36)

And more.

The kicker is that just like the physical pain we experience in our bodily growth, spiritual growth is a necessity for its own sake. We are not growing towards something, we are growing into something. The end that Jesus pictures is not a possibility – it is what will be. The promise is made, our portion in God is sealed in our baptism and nothing will stop it. Jesus is not asking us to do something to deserve such a gift. Having given the gift, he is now revealing what it's going to do to us.

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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.

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The grace of God is going to make us grow.

It will be painful. The childish, selfish human being that lives in all of us will not go away easily. Our sin - our corrupt, greedy, violent, self-righteous self hangs in there like a gray and windy March day. But it need not define us, it cannot hold us. We were created to grow, saved to grow, and despite the pains and despite our resistance we will grow.

Each of us will grow. Our world will grow.

The Kingdom of God will grow in our midst.

For the sake of whatever discourages you in this moment, hear again the Word of God: the joy and peace that was promised you is being revealed more and more every single day. His victory will not be denied! Spring is on the way. And Easter is ...

-Pastor Glen



Butter Braid Sales!!



March 5th—March 26th

Contact any FLC Youth or contact Erika to order!

Pick up — Begins April 9th after 12pm

Check the kitchen list to find out which church freezer
your braids are located in!!

\$15 each

Apple

Cinnamon

Blueberry & Cream Cheese

Raspberry

Strawberry & Cream Cheese

Cherry

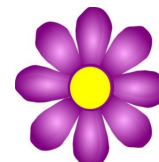
Caramel Rolls

CHOCOLATE (NEW!!)

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 Rachel Reiman ✚ Family of Fredrick Heinssen Jr. ✚ Family of Michael Ellis ✚ Carol Kuhfahl ✚ Sophie Kempcke ✚ Wayne & Carolyn Behrend (Parents of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing ✚ Jo Royuk (mother of Anne Chrans) - healing ✚ Keith Hartvigsen - healing from surgery ✚ Mick Jensen ✚ Marilyn Swanson—healing ✚ Jase Hemminger (grandson of Dennis & Angie Hemminger) - cancer - prayers ✚ Patrick McKinnis - healing ✚ Angela Ulven - healing ✚ Amie Clausen - prayers & healing ✚ Sunni Wilson (mother of Melody Dubon) ✚ J. J. Ihrke & Family (son of Carol Ihrke) - battling ALS ✚ Julia Maettes - cancer treatments - prayers & healing ✚ Elijah - healing ✚ Josh Foulk - healing ✚ Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer ✚ Trina Kaiser - healing ✚ David Kaiser - healing ✚ Helen Garnett (Jim Garnett's mom) - healing ✚ Randy Backman - healing ✚ Clint Clausen - prayers ✚ Mike Boeka - prayers for healing ✚ Deloris Matson - early stage lymphoma - healing & prayers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ John Wick ✚ 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 ✚ Tornado Victims and all those we name in our hearts. |
|--|--|

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. **OR** 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.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 Pinguoch at spinguoch@gmail.com.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

ATTENTION High School Seniors and College Students: The Christian Growth Board is accepting scholarship applications for the 2025-2026 school year for post-secondary education. Any member of FLC that is currently a high school senior or college student may apply. Any member of FLC that is currently a high school senior or college student may apply. Applications are available on the church website or by the Welcome Center. If you have any questions please call the church office at (402) 426-4073.

The deadline to submit an application is April 15, 2025.

FLC Kids Service Project!!

Our PreK—5th graders created Winter Blessing Bags for the WA County Food Pantry. They decorated cards and learned more about Have a Heart for Hunger month at FLC!!



Choir News

Choir rehearsals have started up again on Tuesdays!

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



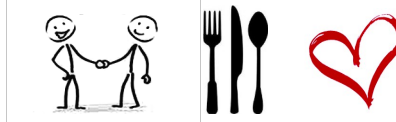
Daylight Saving time will begin on Sunday, March 9th! Remember to set you clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

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

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 5:30-6:30pm

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

hello Spring



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

678 Service Plunge!

We worked at Open Door Mission's Timberlake Outreach Center in the morning, had lunch and met ODM CEO, Candace Gregory, and bagged backpack food at Food Bank for the Heartland.



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.

Starting this week, a computer station will be in the Narthex for you to do just that!

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

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.



Sale Dates: June 19th—21st

**Sidewalks being replaced at
main south
entrance this week!**

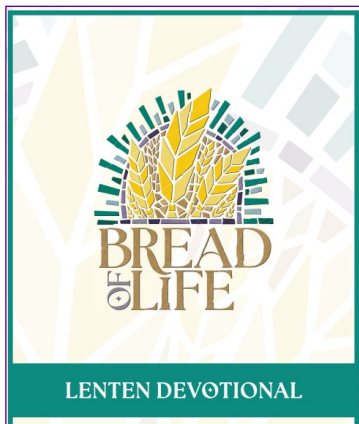
We will be having the sidewalks replaced at the main south entrance this week from Wednesday, February 26th through Saturday, March 1st. You will need to use one of the other entrance for these days. Sorry for any inconvenience.



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Lent Opportunities

Lenten Devotional for all—weekly

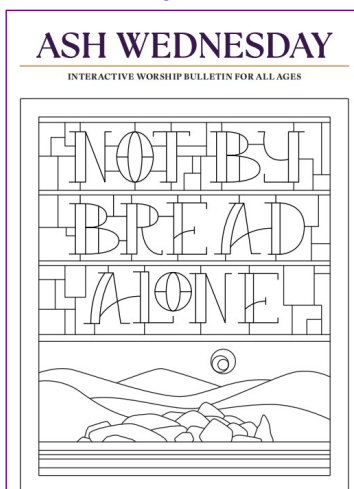


Adult Lenten Reflection with Pastor Glen

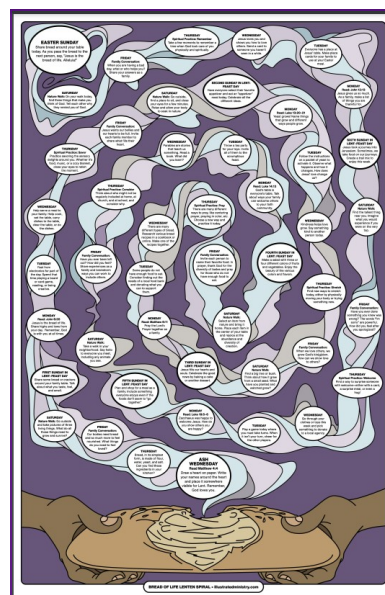
Mar 12th—Apr 9th
7:00-7:20pm

Each week Pastor will give a brief reflection on the scripture for the night.
All are welcome!

Weekly children's worship bulletins



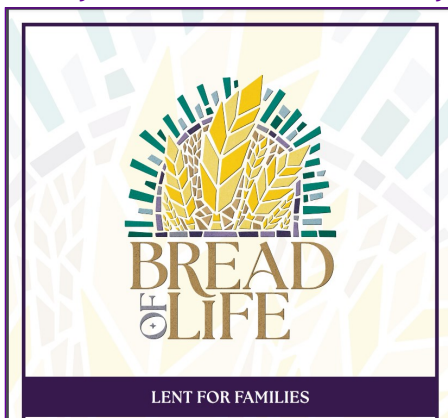
Lenten Daily Calendar



Weekly worship bookmarks



Family Lenten Devotional—weekly



Daily Devotional Minute

Pastor Glen will do a Facebook post each day of Lent based on our theme, "Bread of Life"

Dinner at 5:30pm Wednesdays

Mar 5th—Apr 9th

Join us for soup & sandwiches!
We'll have a play area for the kids in the Fship Hall so parents can sit and eat together while the kids play!

FLC KIDS NEWS

MARCH 2025

A note from Erika:

What exactly is **LENT**?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and is 46 days of holy preparation before Easter. Three areas of focus are helpful for kids during Lent:

- 1) Praying - in different positions, words, times, and places - try some new prayer ideas!
- 2) Simplifying - a step toward the traditional fasting specifically for children - adding or appreciating a new idea, habit, or activity
- 3) Giving - to charity, to one another, to our neighbors - all in a just and caring way

Use the tools we're providing to families to help make your Lenten season special!

Next BIG Event:

Ash Wednesday - March 5

Soup & Sandwiches @ 5:30pm

Worship @ 6:15pm

Lent Scavenger Hunt for ALL AGES following Worship

Please join your kids in learning more about Lent in a church-wide Scavenger Hunt!

Cookies & Lemonade served afterward in Fship Hall

(No LIFE Night classes)

Looking ahead:

**MAR 5TH
MAR 12TH**

NO CLASSES!

Mar 5: Scavenger Hunt with your kids

Mar 12: Blair Spring Break

MAR 19TH

Bread for Each Day

The Lord's Prayer

MAR 26TH

Bread for Sharing

Invitation to a Banquet

Mar Kids Offering:



Donations fund the MannaPack ingredients (meals designed to reduce malnutrition) and volunteers hand-pack the meals. Meals are distributed throughout the world, feeding children and saving lives. Over 90% of donations are directed toward feeding kids in need.

LENT TOOLS FOR FAMILIES

Lenten Spiral - a daily calendar (similar to Advent)

Weekly Devotions for families

Bookmarks provided at weekly Lent worship

FLC YOUTH

NEWS

MARCH
2025



Announcements

Verse of the Month

God is a safe place to hide, ready to help when we need him.

Psalm 46:1 MSG

9 to 12 YG - Bowling!!

Sunday, March 23rd 3pm

We'll go bowling & have dinner - no cost!! Friends welcome!!

*****Must signup with Erika*****

No LIFE Night/Confirmation

Wednesday, March 12th

Please join us for Lenten Soup & Sandwiches at 5:30pm and worship at 6:15pm

Confirmation Topics

6th & 7th:

The Gospels & Letters/Epistles

8th:

Write poem for Confirmation and decorate stoles for ceremony



Fundraisers

BUTTER BRAIDS!!

MARCH 5th - 26th

All 6th - 12th graders,
please try to sell 3 items



FUNDS RAISED SUPPORT:

9 to 12 Events

(mini golf, meals, etc.)

Lock-ins

Service Projects & Plunges

9 to 12 YG Plans

- **Mar 2: No Meeting**
- **Mar 9: No Meeting**
Watch for a Sardines/Service Project party during Spring Break!!
- **Mar 16: No Meeting**
- **Mar 23: Bowling & Dinner**
 - Meet at Fship Hall at 3pm
 - Sign up with Erika

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
March 2025**



Lenten Ingathering for the Oaks Indian Mission

During March and throughout Lent, the Social Concerns Committee is sponsoring an ingathering for the Oaks Indian Mission (OIM). We will begin the month by welcoming Dan Cooper, OIM's executive director, who will give temple talks at all services on March 1st and 2nd. He will also be present at coffee between services on Sunday for informal conversation.

After the 10:15 service on March 2nd, the Social Concerns Committee is hosting a light meal. This will be followed by our **Courageous Conversation #4 with Dan Cooper**. It will give members opportunity to hear and ask questions about Oaks Indian Mission, including the ongoing work with children and young people, but also evolving to provide transitional housing for refugees approved by Homeland Security.

During the month congregation members are also invited to support the OIM's work by contributing needed items. These can be brought to the church and placed in the Welcome Center. The collected items will be taken down to the Oaks Indian Mission in April.

Items Needed:

Washing and Cleaning

Laundry Detergent

Bleach

Dish Soap

Disinfectant Wipes

Lysol

Glade & Airwick plug-in (refills)

Paper Towels

Food

Canned Goods (any & all)

Snack Foods

Personal Care

Shampoo & Conditioner

Body Wash (men & women)

Tampons

Pads

Tylenol & Motrin (liquid & capsules)

Band Aids

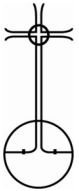
Members can also contribute items directly from Amazon by going to the website for the Oaks Indian Mission www.oaksindianmission.org and on the homepage, drop down menu clicking on "Get Involved" and then "What We Need" and then "check out our list on Amazon." Items may be purchased on line and are delivered directly to the Mission.

NOTES♦DATES♦REMINDERS

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

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.*



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