

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

*“Summer days driftin’ away, to, uh oh, those summer nights ...”
(Summer Lovin’, from the musical Grease)*

When Danny Zuko and Sandy Olsson sing the song Summer Lovin’ in the musical Grease, they evoke memories of romance inspired in the heat of summer (and perhaps something more.) Today we face a different truth: hot summer days are not dreamy. They are awful.

Climate change is our reality now, heat records are broken year after year. Over and over again we face extreme heat warnings, cautions against even venturing out-of-doors, let alone engaging in any strenuous activity. We are surrounded by stories of people getting sick and dying because of these “hot summer days.”

The problem of course is that our bodies are mostly water, and the heat has a way of sucking that needful moisture right out of us. Being human means being vulnerable, and we must always be on guard against all the forces that draw this needful element of life from us.

And what is being sucked out of you right now?

I ponder that question as I look upon the violence in the world. If it is true that God created us to live in peace and community, then the world is sucking that hope right out of our hearts. I feel like I should be more shocked than I am that someone would attempt to assassinate a political candidate, but I find myself jaded to the point where it barely registers - just another angry individual with a weapon of mass destruction trying to work out his problems through an act of mass murder. War rages around the planet. Violence driven by desire and greed, seeking power and control, exercising fear and their personal demons, and all at the expense of innocence and children.

It isn't that no one is trying to make peace - it's just too many others are not.

I count it a blessing that my own life is conducted in relative safety, and I know that violent crime rates continue to decline in our nation. So what do we make of this almost palpable level of anger and enmity everywhere? The ability to share reasonable disagreement, the capacity to maintain relationships with those around us who have different ideas, different opinions, and different lifestyles seems to have disappeared. When did “tolerance” become a dirty word? Leaders and politicians do not talk about ideas and plans anymore. They just simply tell us that their opponent is the “worst person ever,” as if that was all the motivation we needed.

We have forgotten something important. We have forgotten what we are made of.

We are creatures of Spirit. In our baptism God poured into us the living embodiment of his grace. Not mostly. All. His promise comprises our life, our being, our hope. We live in a world that is constantly trying to suck it out of us, but we are called to a life of faith to continually replenish it.

(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, & 10
Children's Ministries	7
Youth News	8
Social Concerns	9

Could you help Erika?

Could you help our **LIFE Night Children's & Youth Ministries** programs this fall?

SO MANY WAYS TO HELP OUR KIDS!!

LIFE Night Teachers/Helpers

(weekly/rotate on Wed night)

LIFE Night Art Prep/Setup

(during week anytime)

LIFE Night Classroom Prep/Setup

(on Wed during day)

Confirmation Faith Mentors

(4 times/year on Wed night)

Confirmation Recordkeeping

(during week anytime)

Confirmation Classroom Prep/Setup

(on Wed during day)

9 to 12 Youth Group Adult Sponsors

(on Sunday nights and at events)

9 to 12 Youth Group Guest Speakers

(on Sunday nights)

Talk to Erika for more info!!

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)

That is why we do what we do. That is why we come to church to worship. That is why we immerse ourselves in the Word of God. That is why we serve and why we give and why we form relationships with others around us. We are not trying to impress God, we are not trying to earn a place in heaven some far-off day. We need simply be what God made us to be: creatures of his promise, bearers of his Spirit, and instruments of light when all around us is dark.

Are you feeling a little low on spirit these days? Come and get a refill!

I will tell you a little secret: the gift is limitless. There is no shortage, no supply chain issue, no inflated costs. God's spirit is boundless. The grace that you were given at your baptism is eternal, and it will never, ever, ever, run out. As hard as the world might try to kill it, it is and will always be in you. You need only turn and see, you need only let it be.

You are a beloved child of God, and nothing in this world can take that away from you.

-Pastor Glen

Tornado Disaster Relief Fund

As we continue to find ways to serve the needs of our community following the Arbor day tornado, we have created a Disaster Relief Fund at FLC. This fund will be used to provide immediate and long-term assistance to members of our church and others in the community as they seek to recover from the storm. We are grateful for your contributions. Please make sure to mark your check or envelope "Disaster Relief Fund."



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



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

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✚ Family of Margaret Sidebottom | ✚ Gordon Soderberg - healing |
| ✚ Family of Meta Brandes | ✚ Irene Thorsen |
| ✚ Amie Clausen - prayers & healing | ✚ Jo Royuk (mother of Anne Chrans) - healing |
| ✚ LaDona Warren - healing | ✚ Russ Sonderup - prayers |
| ✚ Sunni Wilson (mother of Melody Dubon) | ✚ Meredith Dickerson - Alpha Gal Syndrome |
| ✚ J. J. Ihrke & Family (son of Carol Ihrke) - battling ALS | ✚ Zach - cancer healing/treatment side effects |
| ✚ Julia Maettes - cancer treatments - prayers & healing | ✚ Misty - healing and pain relief |
| ✚ Bev Homes - comfort | ✚ Marilyn Svendgard |
| ✚ Rod Hansen - prayers and healing | ✚ Sue Marsh - healing |
| ✚ Elijah - healing | ✚ Merriebeth Ferguson (sister-in-law of Merriellen Bourn) - cancer - healing |
| ✚ Josh Foulk - healing | ✚ Chris Kesling - healing |
| ✚ Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer | ✚ Alex - surgery & healing |
| ✚ Trina Kaiser - healing | ✚ Mary LaScala |
| ✚ David Kaiser - healing | ✚ Martin Kuhr - prayers and healing |
| ✚ Helen Garnett (Jim Garnett's mom) - healing | ✚ Riley |
| ✚ Chris Chance - healing | ✚ Georgia (great niece of Debbie Katt) -prayers & healing |
| ✚ Randy Backman - healing | ✚ Kyler Reed - healing |
| ✚ Clint Clausen - prayers | ✚ Scott & Katie Abrams - prayers & healing |
| ✚ Mike Boeka - prayers for healing | ✚ Kay Melby (Angela Ulven and Kari Hernandez's mother) - healing |
| ✚ Deloris Matson - early stage lymphoma - healing & prayers | ✚ Patrick McKinnis - continued healing |
| ✚ John Wick | ✚ Stacy Thompson Green (daughter of Marcy Bottorff) – prayers & healing |
| ✚ Vivian Walvoord - healing & prayers | ✚ Larry Kastrup – healing |
| ✚ Betty Wolsmann - healing | ✚ Leo Aguilar-Hicks – healing for Leukemia |
| ✚ Florence Larsen - prayers for healing | ✚ Lekura Parish |
| ✚ Keith Matzen & family - prayers | ✚ SSGT Miley Alvarez - Deployment |
| ✚ Dana - healing | ✚ SSGT Rachael Moore & grandma - Deployment - pray to keep her safe and also pray that grandma is well |
| ✚ Clark Jenson | ✚ Tornado Victims and all those we name in our hearts. |
| ✚ Betty Anderson | |
| ✚ Wayne (father of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing | |
| ✚ Ruth Ann Persson - healing | |



**ELCA Youth Gathering
New Orleans, LA**

***We're Back!!
We're Changed!!
We're Created to Be...***

Hear all about our trip!!

**Join us at worship services on
August 17th, 18th and 21st**

Funeral Coordinators

The Women's Steering Team is in need of TWO people to be Co-Coordiators to facilitate funerals. These people would work with the family to provide workers for the funeral luncheon. The family is responsible for providing all the food. Please contact Sarah Boeka, Coordinator if you are interested in this position or would like more information. sboeka@abbnebraska.com or 402-669-6008.

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.

Tell people who help fund this ministry.

Pickup or Delivery

Pickup 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

DONATE COOKIES!!

Call Erika or click this link to donate 3
dozen cookies on a Wednesday.

<https://signup.com/go/hfewWuF>

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

Starting on Wednesday, May 1st 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. meal will resume when the fall Wednesday services start back up.

Martha Sorensen

Tracy Gross

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.



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

THANK YOU VBS Volunteers!!

Hope Andersen
Makayla Andersen
Ashley Bacon
Olivia Bacon
Aubrey Bruck
Evie Bruck
Lorelai Bryant
Andy Byrne
Leah Chance
Kaleb Chelbinski
Madi Cunard
Kay Dickinson
Luanne Emanuel
LeLah Filows
Quinnton Foulk
Hannah Grace
Millie Grace
Hannah Gross
Emma Hernandez

Monica Hirschert
Sammi Hirschert
Danielle Jensen
Mason Judt
Maddie Kempcke
Sophie Kempcke
Vince Krysl
Will Lierman
Katelyn Mitchell
Rhonda McMurtry
Lindsey Moeller
Sidney Moeller
Anika Nemechek
Derrick Parker
Sarah Parks
Ike Petersen
Ruby Petersen
Ruth Petersen
Ella Pike

Laura Pike
Susan Poling
Nate Preister
Cady Quick
Ashley Rasmussen
Mia Rasmussen
Adriana Roberts
Pat Rogers
Wanda Ruhge
Mindy Rump
Hadly Schueth
Summit Scott
Kaley Starzyk
Anna Stirek
Lilly Suverkrubbe
Reese Uptmor
Lauren Wehrli
Blake Work
Brady Work

*And all those who stopped in to assist whenever they had a
free moment. THANK YOU!!*

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

2024 Kickoff!

Please join us as we celebrate FLC's new year of worship, fellowship, and education opportunities!!

August 21st @ 6:15pm

AND

August 25th @ 10:15am

- Worship
- Bag Blessing—for all the bags we take with us on our days away from home!
- Presentation of Bibles to incoming 6th graders

AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- Meal and fellowship afterward
- Games for all

Come join us for food, fun, and fellowship to kickoff our new year at FLC! And invite a friend, while you're at it!



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, and 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.



This Semester

Topics:

My Bible
All About Jesus
Gratitude
Advent/Christmas

Special Dates:

Oct 2: Kids sing @ 6:15pm worship
Nov 20: NO CLASS
Dec 4: Family Advent Path of Light
Dec 15: Christmas Program @ 10:15am

2024 Kickoff!

Please join us!

Wednesday August 21st @ 6:15pm

AND

Sunday August 25th @ 10:15am

- Worship
- Bag Blessing—for all the bags we take with us for our days away from home!!
- Presentation of Bibles to incoming 6th graders

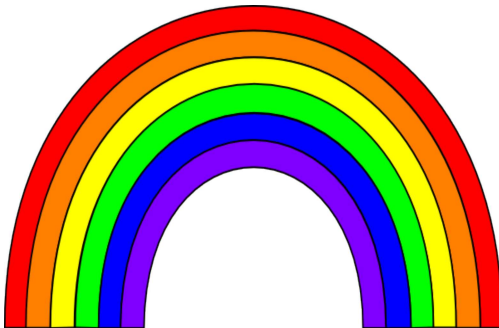
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- Meal and fellowship afterward
- Games for all

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**Love God
Love You
Love Others**



IMPORTANT DATES!

- August 21st** 6:15pm Worship Lab with Bag Blessing, Presentation of Bibles to 6th graders, and New Orleans Youth Presentation
- August 25th** 10:15am Worship with Bag Blessing & Presentation of Bibles to 6th graders Followed by meal, fellowship and fun!
- August 28th** 6:15pm Worship Lab
6:45pm LIFE Night Classes (PreK—5th)
6:45pm Confirmation (6th-8th)
6:45pm Niners (9th)

FLC YOUTH
News!!



6th Grade Bibles

All incoming 6th graders will receive their Confirmation Bibles at our Kickoff services. Please let Erika know which service you plan to attend.

2024 Kickoff!

Please join us!

Wednesday August 21st @ 6:15pm

AND

Sunday August 25th @ 10:15am

- Worship
- Bag Blessing—for all the bags we take with us for our days away from home!!
- Presentation of Bibles to incoming 6th graders

678 Confirmation

Parent & Student Orientation

8/14 @ 7pm

Grades 6, 7, and 8

Classes Begin—8/28 @ 6:45pm

Do justice, love
kindness, and
walk humbly
with your God.



9 to 12 Youth Group

Sunday nights @ 5:30pm

Begins August 25th

Join us for a little break from your all your activities. We'll have guest speakers, dinner, game nights, bowling, hangout time and more! Text me your ideas!

Text @ahd6ck to 81010 for Remind Texts!

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
August 2024**

The Garden Market Continues – Congregation members are invited to bring their produce to share with others on the Garden Cart in the Welcome Center. Those who select produce are invited to make a contribution. The collected funds will go to Lutheran World Relief.



FLC at the Washington County Recycling Center on Saturday, August 24th – Mark your calendars for this date and sign up at the desk in the Welcome Center. Two shifts are available, the first from 8:00 to 10:00 and the second from 10:00 to Noon. (You can volunteer for both shifts.) Let's have a great turnout. The folks involved with the WCRC have always been impressed with the turnout of volunteers from our church!

Foodbank for the Heartland Back Pack Program. This is a partnership with area schools, offering weekend breakfast and lunches to children who are at-risk for hunger. Each week during the school year, over 8,000 backpacks of easy-to-prepare nutritious food are distributed to children in 252 schools in Nebraska and western Iowa, including elementary and middle schools in Blair.

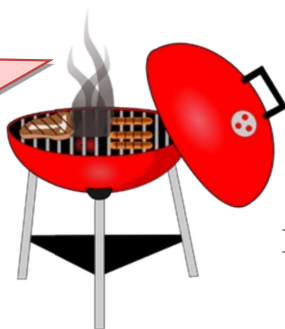


In years past FLC collected items for this important program. Several years ago, the program evolved into soliciting cash contributions that are matched by Woodhouse Auto Family. Because of the many other efforts this year at FLC, committee members decided not make this a specific focus for this August. However, we do encourage members who may be interested in supporting this important program for children to visit <https://foodbankheartland.org/who-we-are/>.

God's Work: Our Hands – *God's Work: Our Hands* is a nationwide effort by the ELCA to do something for others during the month of September. Working with the Church Council, the Social Concerns Committee is making exciting plans for Sunday, September 15th. Opportunities will exist to help members of our own congregation and community. More details will be revealed in August.

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

NOTES♦DATES♦REMINDERS

Fall Kick-off Event

When: Sunday,
August 25th

Time: After 10:15am

Worship Service

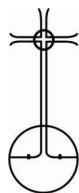
Where: Fellowship Hall

The Fellowship Committee will
provide Hot Dogs and Brats

Please bring a side dish or dessert
to share

RSVP via the sign-up sheet at the
Welcome Center.

**Join us for an afternoon of
Fellowship and Fun!**



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2146 WRIGHT STREET
BLAIR, NE 68008
August 2024