

**A Loving Devotion for January**

**Our Sure God**

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I  
will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

Psalm 23:6

Look at the first word: *surely*. David didn't say, "*Maybe* goodness and mercy shall follow me." Or "*Possibly* goodness and mercy shall follow me." Or "*I have a hunch* that goodness and mercy shall follow me." David could have used one of those phrases. But he didn't. He believed in a sure God, who makes sure promises and provides a sure foundation. David would have loved the words of one of his great-great-grandsons, the apostle James. He described God as the one "with whom there is never the slightest variation or shadow of inconsistency" (James 1:17 Phillips).

Our moods may shift, but God's doesn't. Our minds may change, but God's doesn't. Our devotion may falter, but God's never does. Even if we are faithless, he is faithful, for he cannot betray himself (2 Tim. 2:13). He is a sure God.

-Traveling Light  
Written by Max Lucado  
Excerpt from Grace  
For The Moment  
Volume II

**Welcome Pastor Glen Thomas to First Lutheran Church**

**Pastor Glen Thomas has started here at First Lutheran Church and we are  
overjoyed to have him here with us.**

Pastor Glen Thomas will be our Transitional Pastor here at First Lutheran Church  
and he comes from St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Omaha.

**There will be a Meet & Greet on this Sunday, January 8th between  
worship services in the Fellowship Hall  
for Pastor Glen and his wife, Lorie.**

**Please Join Us this weekend!**

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### **Synod Assembly**

**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!** Is the theme for this year's Nebraska Synod Assembly. It will be held June 2-4, 2023 in Kearney, Ne at the Younes Conference Center.

First Lutheran Church is looking for participants who would be interested in attending this years gathering! As an attendee you would become a voting member. There will be proposals to consider, amendments, and resolutions. They also adopt the Synod budget and elect officers and committee members. It's also a time for fellowship, learning, worship and meeting new people from across Nebraska!

Even though the meeting isn't until June, we need to have a list of representatives for First Lutheran Church before the annual meeting in January. Please contact the church office at 402-426-4073, or Laurie Wick at [wickette224@gmail.com](mailto:wickette224@gmail.com) or 402-533-0536

**We are now livestreaming our worship services on Facebook Live.**

**Please join [www.facebook.com/flcblair](https://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.**

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



✝ Family of Elizabeth Nielsen  
 ✝ Family of Marvin Rohwer  
 ✝ Family of Jenae Hayes  
 ✝ Mick Rahlfs  
 ✝ Betty Wolsmann - surgery & healing  
 ✝ Meredith Dickerson - Alpha Gal Syndrome  
 ✝ Zach - cancer healing  
 ✝ Misty - healing and pain relief  
 ✝ Karen Fenne - undergoing cancer treatments  
 ✝ Rod Hansen - prayers and healing  
 ✝ Marilyn Svendgard  
 ✝ Soren Miller - healing  
 ✝ Jimmy Shaw - healing  
 ✝ Sue Marsh - healing  
 ✝ John Powell (boyfriend of Molly Dibben) - Leukemia - healing  
 ✝ Diane Troyer - healing  
 ✝ Merriebeth Ferguson (sister-in-law of Merriellen Bourn) - cancer - healing  
 ✝ Chris Kesling - healing  
 ✝ Russ Sonderup - prayers  
 ✝ Jeff Gunderson - healing  
 ✝ Alex - surgery & healing  
 ✝ Pat Bentsen  
 ✝ Carolyn (mother of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing  
 ✝ June Jenson - prayers & healing  
 ✝ Frank Korshoj - healing  
 ✝ Mary LaScala  
 ✝ Tim Jensen - healing  
 ✝ Debbie Kempcke - cancer - healing  
 ✝ Kenny Truhlsen  
 ✝ Clark Jenson - prayers and healing  
 ✝ Martin Kuhr - prayers and healing  
 ✝ Nicole Schmidt - 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  
 ✝ Mr. S. Akot - healing  
 ✝ Patrick McKinnis - continued healing  
 ✝ Stacy Thompson Green (daughter of Marcy Bottorff) – prayers & healing  
 ✝ Lisa Garcia – strength & healing  
 ✝ Larry Kastrup – healing  
 ✝ Leo Aguilar-Hicks – healing for Leukemia  
 ✝ Lekura Parish  
 ✝ ELCA World Hunger and all those we name in our hearts.



**NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS****MWM****MID WEEK MEAL****Pickup or Delivery**

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

**Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm**

**For Planning**

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

**For Delivery**

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

**ATTENTION!!****Servers Desperately Needed!!**

What servers do:

At 4:45pm we begin serving the main dish into  
to-go containers.

Those containers are then counted and sorted  
into large boxes for the delivery drivers, and  
the rest are sorted for pickup.

We are usually done with serving, sorting, and  
cleanup by 6:30pm.

Please contact Erika if you can volunteer!!  
Even If it's only once a month, that would be  
WONDERFUL!!

## NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

# Mark Your Calendars



**Sunday, January 29, 2023  
Annual Meeting of the Congregation of  
First Lutheran Church**

**9:30am—One Worship that morning in the LIFE Center**

Saturday, Jan. 28th—regular 5pm worship  
will be held

**The Annual Meeting will begin directly  
after worship.**

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

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To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, **please do not file your 2022 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church.** Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Year-end statements will be available by the end of January.



## NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

### **New W.O.W. Meal is Here!!!**

Join us for the Worship On Wednesday in-house meal from  
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm prior to Worship Lab.

\*\*\*\*\* **Suggested Donation of \$5/person** \*\*\*\*\*

This meal is self-funded so we **REALLY** need your donations to be able to  
keep this going on a  
weekly basis.

*Come at 5:30 to fuel your body  
and then stay for Worship Lab at 6:15 to feed your soul.*



### **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

**ATTENTION** High School Seniors and College Students: The Christian Growth Board is accepting scholarship applications for the 2023-2024 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, 2023.**

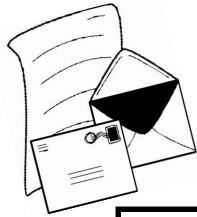


### **New Christ in Our Homes are here**

**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 January, February, and March. 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.







## *Thank You Notes*

### Senior Citizens Worship and Lunch

Many thanks for the Senior Citizens Worship and Lunch on December 15. Very nice service and lunch. A lot of people worked hard making this a very nice event!

-James & LeAnn Iseminger

First Lutheran Family,

Thank you so much to the Carolers that came and sang for me. I really enjoyed them. Also thank you to Dawn and her daughters for bringing the beautiful Poinsettia to me. It is lovely. It is so nice to be remembered. Thanks!

God Bless,  
Betty Megrue

## NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

### Offering Envelopes

The 2023 Offering Envelopes are out for you to pick up. The Offering Envelopes are in alphabetical order on the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Please stop by and pick your envelopes up. If you have any questions please contact Dawn in the Church office at (402) 426-4073. Thank you!

### We are hiring!

First Lutheran is accepting applications for 2 part-time building custodial positions

To see the job description and apply, please follow this link:  
<https://forms.gle/m3CBrifJ4XRhPNp48>  
Or call the church office at (402) 426-4073.



### January Lesson Themes

#### **Jan 11 & 18: The 12 Disciples**

This lesson will help children learn what it was like to walk alongside Jesus, remembering the disciples were human just like us.

#### **Jan 25 & Feb 1: Fruit of the Spirit**

This lesson will be an example of how to grow in Christ, not in the ways of our world. Children will grow spiritually, in their hearts.

### Mark your 2023 Calendars

- Jan 11th: Worship Lab & LIFE Night Classes begin
- Feb 12th: Kids sing at 10:15am
- Feb 15th: Kids sing at 6:15pm
- Mar 8th: NO CLASS—Spring Break
- April 2nd: Kids sing at 10:15am
- April 5th: NO CLASS—Holy Week
- April 26th: End of Year FAMILY PARTY!!

### Children's Offering in January



This month, our offering will be shared with

#### **Backpack Program** (Food Bank of the Heartland)

100% of our funds raised will be used to provide weekend breakfasts and lunches to hungry kids via backpacks handed out at schools across eastern NE and western IA.

In January, take some time to sit down and make a plan for family time—a regular time when everyone can be together and love one another and be one.



### Volunteer of the Month!!



**Ruby Petersen**  
**1st & 2nd Grade Co-Teacher**

**Favorite Bible story:** Jesus' resurrection

**Favorite food:** Anything barbecue

**Favorite part of FLC:** The people

**Favorite winter activity:** Hot cocoa by a fire



**CREATED  
TO BE**

## ELCA Youth Gathering

**July 15-22, 2024**

(for all current 8th—11th graders)

Do you think you MIGHT be interested?

Do you need more information?

Are you just curious?

Do you have questions?

Join us for an introductory meeting!

**Wednesday, Jan 25th @ 7:45pm**

## Upcoming Activities!

**Jan 8th @ 3pm:** Games and Appetizers!!  
Chill time

**Jan 15th @ 3pm:** Mini Golf in Omaha  
RSVP for rides

**Jan 22nd @ 3pm:** Q & A about ELCA Youth  
Gathering

I'm hoping to have some Gathering alums come and  
talk about their experience. Parents welcome!!



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

Micah 6:8

## Youth Opps

9 to 12

**High School Youth Group**

Sundays 3—4:30pm

Discussion, snacks, games, & more

**Starts January 8th**

9ers

**Wednesdays 6:45pm-7:45pm**

Homework, chat time, & snacks

**Starts January 11th**

678

**Confirmation**

**Wednesdays 6:45pm-7:45pm**

**Starts January 11th**



**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  
January 2023**

**IS the CELEBRATION of CHRISTMAS OVER?**

When the song of the angels is stilled  
When the star in the sky is gone  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins  
To find the lost  
To heal the broken  
To feed the hungry  
To rebuild the nations  
To bring peace among people  
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman (from "Face to Face," a Publication of Church World Service)

Perhaps you chose an **Alternative Gift** to honor a loved one, and in the process helped a third world family with an animal from **God's Global Barnyard** to honor a loved one, or made a gift to **Lutheran Disaster Response** to help victims of recent tornadoes, hurricanes, or war, or helped a local family in need with a gift to **Washington County Food Pantry**. What wonderful ways these are to celebrate the birth of Christ and the light of **Epiphany**, for "**As much as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me**" (Mt. 25:34).

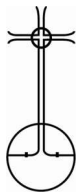
**A BIG THANK YOU** also goes to all who contributed winter outerwear which has been delivered to the **Open Door Mission**, since **Joseph's Coat** was already well stocked with these items. The total count of winter coats/sweaters was **52**, plus a large garbage bag of miscellaneous hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves.

**The WASHINGTON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY** continues to need your gifts, especially hamburger helper, peanut butter, jam, and paper products such as toilet paper for our "near neighbors" in need. You may deposit your gifts in the receptacle in the narthex at any time. While many think of Christmas as the time of giving, the need goes on. Monetary donations are also important to the long-term success of the **Pantry** and **Joseph's Coat**, as cash donations not only cover daily operational expenses, but allow the Pantry to purchase food in bulk at significantly reduced prices.

Stay tuned for information about the upcoming **HAVE A HEART FOR HUNGER** emphasis in February!

**WE WISH YOU ALL A BLSSSED EPIPHANY SEASON AND A SAFE AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**





FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2146 WRIGHT STREET  
BLAIR, NE 68008  
January 2023