

First Lutheran Church ELCA

The Ambassador

September 2026

Volume 26 Issue 9

News From Pastor Bob

From Summer's Pace to Autumn's Promise

There is something special about August in Nebraska.

The fields begin to change color. County fairs wind down. Vacation suitcases are unpacked. School supplies appear on store shelves, and before long yellow school buses will once again travel our roads. Summer slowly gives way to the familiar routines of autumn.

For many of us, August has always felt a little like New Year's Day. It is a fresh beginning.

Children head back to school with new teachers and new opportunities. Sunday School classes begin again. Confirmation students gather to learn, ask questions, and grow in faith. Choirs rehearse. Bible studies resume. The church begins to buzz with activity after the quieter summer months.

One of my favorite traditions is the **Blessing of the Backpacks**. As students bring their backpacks to worship, we pray that God will walk beside them every day of the school year. We pray for teachers, school staff, bus drivers, administrators, coaches, and parents. Education is much more than learning facts; it is helping young people grow into caring, responsible adults. They need our encouragement, our prayers, and our example.

As wonderful as these events are, they also remind us of something important.

Faith grows through habits.

A farmer understands this well. Crops don't simply appear because we hope they will. Fields are prepared. Seed is planted. Weeds are removed. Rain is welcomed. Day after day, faithful work produces a harvest.

Our spiritual lives are much the same.

Prayer, worship, reading Scripture, serving others, and gathering with God's people are the practices that nourish our faith. None of them are dramatic by themselves, but over time they shape our hearts and strengthen our trust in Christ.

(Pastor Bob's Newsletter Article continued on Page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

After the relaxed pace of summer, September is a wonderful opportunity to renew those habits. Make Sunday worship part of your family's weekly rhythm again. Bring the children and grandchildren. Let them see that faith is not simply something we talk about—it is something we live together.

Children learn many things from their parents and grandparents. They learn kindness, honesty, hard work, and respect. They also learn what is truly important by watching where we spend our time. Few gifts are greater than giving our families a foundation of faith that will support them through every season of life.

So as the days grow shorter and harvest season fills our fields, I invite you to make this fall a season of renewed commitment.

Come to worship.

Bring your family.

Encourage your neighbors.

Pray for our children, our teachers, and our church.

There is always room for one more in God's house, and perhaps someone is simply waiting for your invitation.

May God bless the harvests, watch over every student and teacher, guide our confirmation youth, bless every backpack that enters a classroom, and continue to strengthen our congregation as we walk together in faith.

I look forward to seeing you in church this fall.

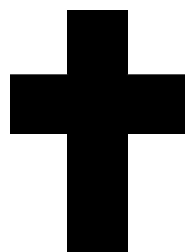
God's peace,

Pastor Bob Oleson

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.



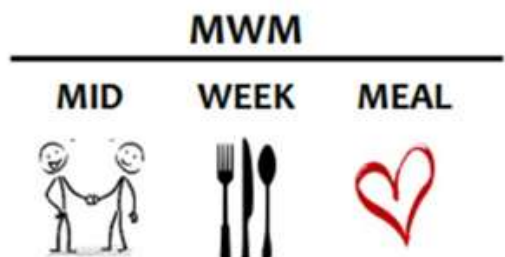
We Remember in Our Prayers

Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers

Michael Reed - healing
Deb Katt
Marian Thomas
Laurie Wick - healing
Judy Thompson - healing
Heather Fredericksen
Jeff & Cindy Smith - healing
Sandy Josephsen (Wilke) - prayers for healing
Brooklyn Schroeter - healing - knee surgery
Shelli McGregor - healing and answers
Betty Megrue - prayers
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
Julia Maettes - cancer treatments - prayers & healing

Patrick McKinnis - healing
Elijah - healing
Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer
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



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED!!

Erika is stepping down as Mid Week Meal coordinator. Please consider joining a leadership team to help this ministry continue for our community!!

We are now
livestreaming our
worship services on
Facebook Live.

Please join www.facebook.com/fleblair 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.

Women's Bible Study.

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 Pinquoch at spinquoch@gmail.com or call (402) 533-3735.



Notes, Dates, & Reminders

Check out our new
FLC Youth mural
in the basement!



Thank you Makayla Andersen and Hope Andersen for
sharing your artistic talents with all of us!!

Please join us for a Mural Dedication!

Sunday, September 6th @ 9:30am

(Youth Hallway downstairs)



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) by Thursday afternoon. It will be included in the weekly email blast.

LIFE Night Kickoff!

LIFE Night is coming on Wednesday, September 16th

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

Wednesday, September 16th

5:30pm: WOW Meal

Nacho Bar & Ice Cream Sundaes

6:15pm: Wednesday Night Worship

6:45pm: LIFE Night Classes (PreK - 5th)

6:45pm Confirmation Classes

7:45pm: Dismissal

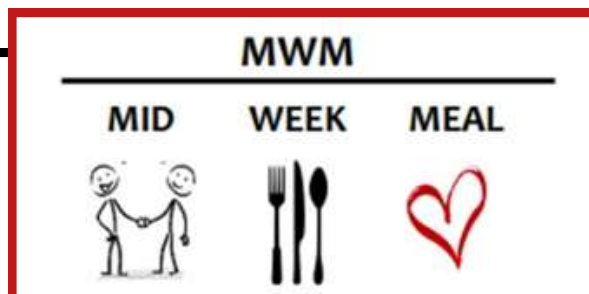


Come join us for food, fun, and fellowship to kickoff our new year at FLC!
And invite a friend, while you're at it!

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 FLC 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!

Or bake 3 dozen treats for the MWM recipients!!
Signup by calling FLC or go to this website: <https://signup.com/go/hfewWuF>

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.

W.Q.W. Meal will be starting again on Wednesday, September 16th (In House Meal)

Starting on Wednesday, September 16th at 5:30pm the W.Q.W. meal will start up again when LIFE Night starts back up.



FLC KIDS NEWS

A note from Erika: I'm back!

I will be back in the FLC office full time on August 31st. Plans will get rolling, and we'll start our new education year on September 16th.

If you are a LIFE Night teacher/helper, watch your email for information about our new year.

If you are a LIFE Night parent/guardian, please click this link to register your kid(s) for LIFE Night this year: **Register HERE!**

Can't wait to see you!!
Much love,
Erika

September 2026

Next BIG Event:

It's time to get going!!

LIFE NIGHT
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
CONFIRMATION
WOW MEAL
**will begin Wednesday
September 16th!!**

Looking ahead:

**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6TH**

Dedication of our Children's Mural

Designed & painted by Makayla Andersen and Hope Andersen

9:30am in Basement Youth Hallway

**WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16TH**

Wednesday Night Activities begin!!

5:30pm: WOW Meal

Nacho Bar & Ice Cream Sundaes

6:15pm: Wednesday Night Worship

6:45pm: LIFE Night Classes (PreK - 5th)

7:45pm: Dismissal

September Offering:



The WA County Food Pantry provides food for those who are hungry and food insecure in WA County. The food is provided through donations, purchases, and the USDA. All proceeds from Joseph's Coat Thrift Store are also used to purchase food.

SEPTEMBER BIBLE VERSE:

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17

FLC YOUTH

NEWS SEPTEMBER 2026



Announcements

2027 ELCA Youth Gathering



June 26 - July 2,
2027
All 9th - 12th graders
in fall, 2026

ATTENTION!!

Meeting #1
Sun, Sept 13th
6-7pm - with pizza!!
(attendance required
no parents/guardians)

678 CONFIRMATION UPDATES!!

Confirmation Small Group Guides
Watch your email for information
about our new year.

Parents/Guardians
Click this link to register your kid(s):
Register HERE!

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION
September 9th @ 6:15pm
All parents/guardians AND students

Erika is back!

I will be back in the FLC office full time on August 31st. Plans will get rolling, & we'll begin all classes on September 16th.

9 to 12 Youth:

All high schoolers are welcome to hang out in the Youth Room on Wednesday nights this year. However, there will be a few new rules.

We will also meet once a month for some "Church Chat" and some "Food & Fun". ALL are welcome!!
1st One...Sept 27th @ 6pm @ FLC!!

Can't wait to see you!!
Much love,
Erika

Let's get going!!

All Wednesday night activities will begin on **SEPTEMBER 16th!!**

- WOW Meal @ 5:30pm
Nacho Bar & Ice Cream Sundaes!!
- Wednesday Worship @ 6:15pm
- Confirmation & 9 to 12 Youth @ 6:45pm
- All dismissed at 7:45pm

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
September 2026**

God's Work; Our Hands

This year's God's Work; Our Hands project will occur at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning, September 12th at the Potter's Field in the Blair Cemetery. This will be the next phase in a plan to conclude the project by All Saints Day 2027.

The plan for Saturday, September 12th is to complete the following:

1. Rake out the areas where there are existing graves;
2. Ground prep for seeding and place sod on marked grave sites;
3. Seed grass in the raked out, circular areas;
4. With the assistance of a park/cemetery, place crosses, which have already been purchased, in concrete at approximately thirty grave sites.

Volunteers are needed and are asked to bring:

1. a pronged rake if they have one and
2. their own drinks and snacks.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center in the church, and volunteers are urged to sign it so we can be assured that there will be adequate volunteers to complete the day's plan.

Following completion of this year's God's Work; Our Hands activities, plans are being made to place an informational sign at the southwest and a stone cross monument with all the known names of those buried at the south center of the Potter's Field. Mike Jones is assisting the Social Concerns Committee and the congregation in coordinating this project.



(Social Concerns Committee is continued on Page 11)

(Social Concerns Committee Continued from Page 10)

Annual Foodbank for the Heartland's Backpack Program



It's time for our annual support of the **Backpack Program** - members of First Lutheran have supported this initiative for many years. 1 in 5 children in the **Food Bank's for the Heartland's** 93-county service area is at-risk for hunger. The Backpack Program, a partnership with area schools (including Blair), offers packs of weekend breakfasts and lunches to children. During the 24-25 school year, 8,002 packs equaling 32,008 meals - of easy-to-prepare or ready-to-eat nutritious food are distributed to children in 244 schools in 110 school districts in Nebraska and western Iowa.

Presently Woodhouse Auto Family is matching your gift – dollar for dollar up to \$500k. The cost to sponsor one child for the academic year is \$185 but any amount is welcome. You can make an online contribution by clicking <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/online-website-backpackmatch> or you can send a check directly to Food Bank for the Heartland, 4645 S. 84th St., Omaha, NE 68127. **For more information visit** www.foodbankheartland.org. Thank you FLC for your continued generosity of this program!

The Garden Market Cart: We appreciate and look forward to our congregational gardeners once again sharing their produce with the congregation. Those who take from the Garden Market Cart are asked to make donations. All money collected through the end of the gardening season is sent to **ELCA World Hunger** and its efforts to alleviate 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 is 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.



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