

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

May it be known to the king that we went to the province of Judah, to the house of the great God. It is being built of hewn stone, and timber is laid in the walls; this work is being done diligently and prospers in their hands. (Ezra 5:8)

These words of the prophet Ezra, written in a report to King Darius of Persia, bear the positive tone of a people who are confident in the great task they are undertaking. They are reporting to the King who has given them his permission and blessing for their work. But more so, they are overflowing with hopefulness that they will see this important, generational, work to its end.

Such is the confidence that was surely a part of this congregation's decision to undertake any one of its many building projects – three church buildings and two major additions at least. And now we have celebrated the realization of such a dream by burning the mortgage on the 2005 Life Center addition. Yay!

And Phew! Now we can rest.

For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. (Exodus 20:11)

That's what Sabbath is all about, isn't it? A day of well-earned rest when your work is done. That's the dream – a deserving retirement, appropriate lauds and thanksgivings. And then rest, because the work was hard and the effort meaningful and significant. Who can ask anything more?

God.

The Sabbath is constant and forever. It is not a one-time-now-you're-done moment. It is the spiritual exercise that ties us works then, now, and yet to come. God's involvement in the creation continued after the 7th day. Sabbath is an act of discipleship, a part of the ongoing work of creating the Kingdom of God.

Sabbath is a reminder of the greatness of God's creative work.

And now we come to a Sabbath moment in the life of this congregation. Generations before us labored to create spaces and facilities through which ministry could happen and the gospel be proclaimed in Word and deed. They were faithful in their efforts, and we are greatly blessed. There is no doubt that our ability to respond to the recent needs in our community because of the Arbor Day tornadoes was greatly enhanced because of the facilities we have.

And what shall we leave future generations to work with?

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Could you help Erika?

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

SO MANY WAYS TO HELP OUR KIDS!!

PreK—5th Grade Teachers/Helpers

PreK—5th Grade Art Prep

PreK—5th Grade Classroom Prep

678 Confirmation Faith Mentors

678 Confirmation Small Group Guides

678 Record Keeping

678 Classroom Prep

Niners Adult Sponsors

Talk to Erika for more info!!

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.

(Continued from Page 1)

Even as we celebrate the burning of the mortgage for the Life Center addition, we must begin moving on to what is next. And what is next is not a new building or an addition of space to the current building, but the harder work of good stewardship of our facility. It must be kept up, it must be well maintained, and it must be improved so that we can function efficiently in this space.

In the world today, we must be capable of producing good, high quality, online worship services and events. We need to upgrade our audio and visual systems, and that will cost as much as \$100,000.

We have old and inefficient HVAC equipment, which is costly to operate and in constant need of expensive repairs. We must upgrade and/or replace this equipment. That project could easily cost \$150,000 or more.

Is there more? I am inviting the leadership of this community to prioritize what must be repaired and replaced. We cannot hesitate to continue to maintain our facilities if we are going to sustain our ministry.

If you have been faithfully supporting the building fund, I pray that you will continue to do so now. If your current support of the church does not include the building fund, then I hope you will add the building fund to your giving and support that important work. We have seen now that First Lutheran Church has a vital mission in this community, and we have borne witness to what God can do through us. Let us be found faithful in our stewardship, that we can serve well our community and our world.

-Pastor Glen

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



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

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

Funeral Coordinators

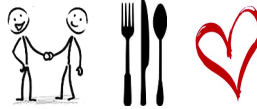
The Women's Steering Team is in need of TWO people to be Co-Coordintors to facilitate funerals. These people would work with the family to provide workers for the funeral luncheon. The family is responsible for providing all the food. Please contact Sarah Boeka, Coordinator if you are interested in this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

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

MWM MID WEEK MEAL



Pickup or Delivery

We serve 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

Volunteers STILL 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 4:45-6pm

Delivery Drivers

You deliver meals to 5-7 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!

Another RECORD!!



We raised over **\$15,200** for our trip, and we are still
receiving donations!!

**We raised far more than we expected, so we will be
donating a portion to the FLC Tornado Disaster Relief
Fund and to the FLC General Fund.**

**We really appreciate all the donations of items, the
advertising, the hours of work, the prayers, the well
wishes, & the purchases!!**

**Thank you for supporting our youth
attending the ELCA Youth Gathering**

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



ELCA Youth Gathering New Orleans, LA!!

July 15-21, 2024



Pray for us!!

We will be traveling on July 15-16 and July 21. Please pray for us as we travel, as we meet new people and have new experiences, and as we visit new places with new cultures.

Thank you for your support!!

SENIORS

Sierra Baker
Rylan Blattert
Eli Cada
Triston Clausen
Gracelyn McIntosh

JUNIORS

Nadia Davey
Ella Donner
Maddie Kempcke
Blythe Knight
Brynn Lundgren
Cady Quick
Ryleigh Schroeter

Mackenzie Storjohann

Nicki Wendt

SOPHOMORES

Sophie Kempcke
Abby Leggott
Maelie Nelson
Ruby Petersen
Ella Pike
Ally Sullivan
Brady Work

FRESHMEN

Lorelai Bryant
Lane Christensen
Sidney Moeller
Brooklyn Schroeter

ADULTS

Evan Cada
Danielle Hauger
Vince Krysl
Sarah Parks
Andrew Sorensen
Martha Sorensen
Barb Triplett
Denise Work
Erika Cada

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



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

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.

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.

Update from Call Committee and the Church Council for this upcoming weekend, June 29th and 30th!

As the search for the next Pastor of First Lutheran continues, the Call Committee and the Church Council have interviewed and are now recommending to the congregation Pastor Glen Thomas as a candidate for the call. Because Pastor Glen has been serving as an Interim Pastor, there will be some unusual aspects to the call itself. In addition, although we have gotten to know Pastor Glen over the past 18 months, the nature of our relationship and his work will certainly change. Normally at this point in the process, the candidate would be invited to come for a “meet and greet” weekend, to lead worship and preach and offer a chance for the congregation to ask questions. We will do the “question” part of the process this weekend, **June 29th and 30th, after worship on Saturday evening and at 9:15 am on Sunday morning.** It is really important to the process and to Pastor Glen that we are all engaged in this next step. Please come and bring your best questions!





Summer worship

Saturday @ 5pm in Sanctuary
 Sunday @ 8:15am in Sanctuary
 Sunday @ 10:15am in LIFE Center



VBS 2024



THANK YOU!!

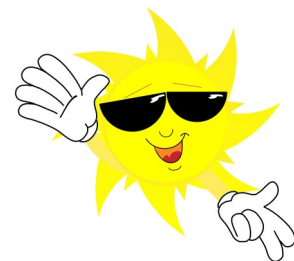
**We had a fantastic week learning
 about environmental health,
 mental health, different abilities
 and health justice!**

*Pictures coming in the August
 Ambassador!*

LIFE Night 2024-25

In August, watch your email for
 information about Worship Lab and
 LIFE Night classes.

Because school is starting differently
 in Blair this year, our LIFE Night year
 will be starting a little later in August.
 Stay tuned!





**CREATED
TO BE**

New Orleans (NOYG)
FINAL MEETING

July 10th @ 7pm

***REQUIRED for
ALL participants AND parents!***

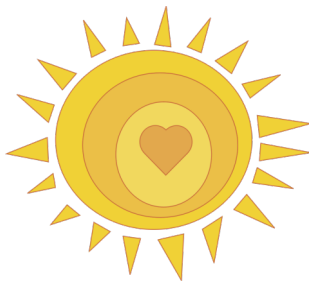
We will go over all the final details, schedules, health concerns, etc.

678
Confirmation

*In July, please watch your email
and your mailbox for
**REGISTRATION INFO
& GOOGLE FORM LINK!!***

We will leave for New Orleans on July 15th at 7am and return late on July 21st. We ask for your prayers as we attend the ELCA Youth Gathering! Prayers for safe travel, powerful faith building experiences, productive service work, and lifelong memories created all in Jesus' name.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!



Do justice, love
kindness, and
walk humbly with
your God. Micah 6:8

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
July 2024**



***The Bridge* – A Resource for individuals and families who experience domestic violence in Burt, Cuming, Dodge, Saunders and Washington Counties, and our next Courageous Conversation.**

Each year in May the Social Concerns Committee has focused on the work of *The Bridge*. Due to the devastation of the Arbor Day Tornado, our ingathering for *The Bridge* throughout May and our second Courageous Conversation were postponed, so that First Lutheran staff and members could focus on providing assistance to those who suffered losses from the storm.

Throughout July, the Social Concerns Committee invites FLC to focus on the work of *The Bridge* through an ingathering of support. This will culminate in our next Courageous Conversation on Sunday, July 28th, that will feature a presentation by Suzanne Smith, *The Bridge's* Executive Director.

The Bridge is committed to providing survivors of domestic violence with resources needed to heal and rebuild. Among needed items are: Fast Food Gift Cards, Gas Gift Cards, Old Cellphones, Copy Paper, Laundry Detergent, Plastic Utensils, Stamps, Baby Wipes, Baby Diapers (especially Size 5+), Pocket Folders, Spiral Notebooks, Snacks (Granola Bars, Pretzels, Cookies, Crackers). Financial donations are also welcomed. (*The Bridge* is not taking clothing donations at this time.) Congregation members may bring items and place them in the Welcome Center.

On Sunday, May 28th at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, the Social Concerns Committee will host our second Courageous Conversation, featuring *The Bridge's* executive director. Committee members will provide sloppy joes and drinks, and ask participants to bring a side dish or a dessert. Please indicate your intent to participate by signing the signup sheet on the desk in the Welcome Center.

The Garden Market – Once again, 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.



Washington County Recycling – Looking ahead to August, the next opportunity for FLC to provide volunteers at the Washington County Recycling Center will be on **Saturday, August 24th**. There will be a signup sheet on the desk in the Welcome Center in August.



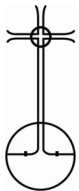
NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

**Join women from across Nebraska for the 2024
Saved to Serve Opportunity Retreat! First
Lutheran Church in Blair is hosting this
working retreat August 2-4.**

Come and learn about Lutheran Family Services who purchased the former Dana College Campus and the Angel Share Program, which assists young adults who are transitioning out of the foster care system. We have been asked to help set up the Dana Village Pantry. Tangible items being sought are: bar soap, laundry soap, shampoo, conditioner, hygiene products, toilet paper and Full/Queen size quilts. There is a laundry basket in the Narthex to donate your items. The deadline for registration is July 19th. Extra registration forms will be on the women's table and at the welcome center at First Lutheran Church.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed
Thursday, July 4th and
Friday, July 5th.
Happy 4th of July!



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