

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

It had been threatening to go out all morning. Finally, just after lunch it did.

By that time probably pretty much everyone in Blair was without power, along with tens of thousands more across southeast Nebraska. Having moved from the land of underground utilities, it had been forever since we had to think about life without electricity. We knew it was possible – we had been trying to keep our various devices charged all morning and we thought we could handle it. At least for a while.

But it was worrisome. Who knew when the power company was going to be able to repair the system? The storm was raging outside, we weren't able to leave. It wasn't very cold in the house yet, but it was surely moving in that direction. We didn't have a plan. Options seemed few and far-fetched at best.

I wonder what it felt like for people who were really at risk. It must have been really frightening.

Isn't powerlessness the worst? No one likes being helpless. It is a well-known truth – preachers, politicians and marketing specialists depend on it. Fear is a great motivator, and there are plenty of people willing to profit from it, to use want and weakness to share their own insecurities or manipulate others through inflated gossip and speculation, rumor mongering, conspiracies and lies.

I see so much grasping for power, so many people seeking to claim victory by making others lose. I see name-calling and bullying becoming customary practice. We find it so easy to validate cruelty and heartlessness (often without even trying). Is this why we are so good punching down and ignoring the sufferings of the least among us?

If only there was something to make us whole and free us from our fear.

Like resurrection.

Lent is the great Christian power-play. It is a season of heavy-handed exploitation, of using the cross as a tool to produce fear (as if we needed more of that) and compel contrived responses to the benefit of preacher's egos and church offerings. Jesus is idolized as a symbol of shame and guilt, punishment, and penalty. We are told we must cower in dread and misery because we face eternal damnation.

I'm not sure why anyone would want to be a part of that, except, of course, for the opportunity to control such power and turn it on others.

But we do not worship a God of death. We worship a God of life, a God who turns pain and suffering and fear and anxiety and guilt and shame and hopelessness into LIFE. We worship a God of resurrection. All these things are no more.

If Lent is about giving things up, then perhaps that is where we should begin. Too often have we made the cross the beginning and source of all such things when we should have seen in it their end!

Inside this issue:

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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.

VBS 2025!!

1st United Methodist
AND
1st Lutheran

WHO IS
my neighbor?



Mark your calendars!!

July 14 – 18
9am—12pm

- Can you help? Contact Erika!!
- Register with Google Form or go to church website

Contact Erika with questions
402-533-0918

(Continued from Page 1)

*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."
John 6:35*

It is our lot and our nature in this world that we hunger, that we seek and want and need. That is real, worthy of our attention and work. It defines our mission and purpose in this world, it is the field in which we serve. But fear is not our destiny, hopeless and despair is not God's plan for his creation. We are Easter people, and a new day is dawning.

We are resurrected. Let us so live.

-Pastor Glen

FLC Youth Easter Breakfast!!

FLC Youth will serve an Easter Breakfast—a time for food and fellowship as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

When: Easter Sunday, April 20th
7:15am—10am

Where: Fellowship Hall

A free will donation will support our
FLC Youth Fund



Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed
Monday, April 21st—the day after
Easter.



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 Norman Frey (father of Rhonda McMurtry) ✠ Family of Barbara Fitchhorn ✠ Family of Lyle Dean Ray ✠ Family of Bob Petersen ✠ Family of Donna Boeka (mother of Mike Boeka) ✠ Family of Nancy Schmerdtmann (aunt of Erika Cada) ✠ Grandson of FLC member - surgery ✠ Mary Frey (mother of Rhonda McMurtry) - prayers ✠ Carol Kuhfahl ✠ Sophie Kempeke ✠ Wayne & Carolyn Behrend (Parents of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing ✠ Jo Royuk (mother of Anne Chrans) - healing ✠ 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Deloris Matson - early stage lymphoma - healing & prayers ✠ 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. |
|--|---|

High School Seniors!!

It's almost time!!

Graduate Recognition @ Worship

Sunday, April 27th @ 10:15am

Needed by April 20th: Digital Senior photo & Baby photo

Graduate Interviews

Posted on Facebook the week of May 4th
Please contact Erika to schedule yours!

Butter Braid Pickup!!



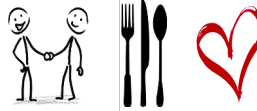
Wednesday, April 9th

After 2pm, please

Check the list in the kitchen to see where your braids are located.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

MWM MID WEEK MEAL



Pickup or Delivery

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

Wednesdays 5:30-6:15pm

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 4:45-5:45pm

Delivery Drivers

You deliver meals to about 6 locations on
Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm

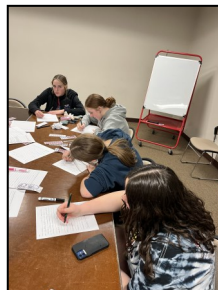
Please contact Erika if you can volunteer!!
All times are flexible—weekly, biweekly,
monthly, whenever it fits into your
schedule!

Confirmation Service Night

Our 6th-8th grade students recently participated in another **Service Night!**

They worked on the following projects:

- Valentine cookies for support staff at the K-8th grade schools
- Letters to US Soldiers across the world
- Tied quilts for Lutheran World Relief and other recipients
- Chemo Care Kits for chemotherapy patients at MCH and Methodist Hospital



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.

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 Pinquoch at spinquoch@gmail.com.

Choir News

Choir rehearsals have started up again on Tuesdays!

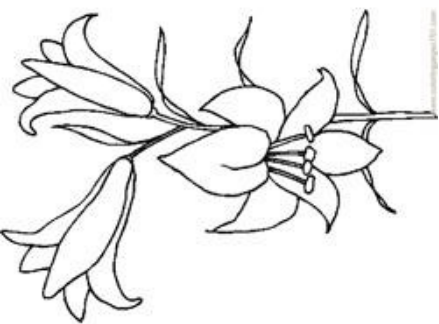
We are always looking for new members to join us! The choir rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the choir room (take the elevator to the second floor and turn left). Regular attendance is encouraged but don't be discouraged if you can't make it each week. You are welcome to join as often as you can. For more information and questions, contact Vince at VKrysl@firstlutheranblair.org

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

Easter Lily Order Form



We will be using Easter lilies to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 20th. If you would like to honor a special person in your life, give a lily in memory of a loved one, or just help out in this way to beautify the church, please complete the information requested below, and drop this slip in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. Your free-will monetary offering may be included with this form to help cover the cost of the lilies. As we are tax-exempt, we will not be publishing a set "cost" for the lilies and therefore view them as a gift to First Lutheran to help decorate our worship space and at the same time honor or memorialize our loved ones.

Check below if you wish to order a lily. Checks should be made payable to First Lutheran Church.

Orders must be received by April 14th.

Your Name(s) _____

Phone number _____

☐ I am giving \$ _____ to be used to purchase lilies to decorate the church for Easter.

All Lilies given to decorate our church will be delivered to a shut-in. If you know of someone who would benefit from receiving one of the lilies, please include their name(s) here:

I would like _____ lilies in honor of: _____

I would like _____ lilies in memory of: _____

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.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

CONFIRMATION

14 eighth graders will be confirmed at FLC on Sunday, April 27th. Please congratulate these students, and pray for them as they enter a new phase of their faith journeys.

Camden Clements	Nate Preister
Quinnton Foulk	Mia Rasmussen
Millie Grace	Kora Schaapveld
Emma Hernandez	Hadly Schueth
Mason Judt	Anna Stirek
Kristina Lucas	Trace Stratman
Anika Nemechek	Scarlett Thompson



The FLC Youth Garage Sale is BACK!!
so.....**WE WANT YOUR STUFF!!**

Furniture, clothing, kitchen items,
sports equipment, outdoor
decor...anything!

We are taking all donations NOW!!
Sale Dates: June 12—14

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH SENIOR CITIZEN WORSHIP AND LUNCH

MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 17, 2025

11am—Worship with
Holy Communion
followed by lunch

**Please call the church office at 426-4073
to RSVP by Friday, April 11th.**



NOTES♦DATES♦REMINDERS



A Passion Reading

presented by FLC Youth

Sunday, April 13th @ 6:30pm

Hear the story of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, as read from the Gospel of Mark by FLC Youth.

A powerful experience for all.

Good Friday Cantata performed by the FLC Chancel Choir

Behold! God's Holy Lamb

This compelling Lenten cantata unites the talents of composer Mark Hayes and lyricist John Parker to trace the events of Holy Week, from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his sacrificial death on the cross. Centered on the metaphor of Jesus as God's Holy Lamb, the work portrays him as one who serves, prays, is sacrificed, and ultimately is silenced. The majestic and energetic "God's Holy Lamb" sets the tone for Palm Sunday, while the middle movements explore Jesus' suffering in Gethsemane and on Calvary's cross. Hayes masterfully weaves Bach's PASSION CHORALE tune with Parker's original lyrics in "Now the Cross is Empty." A reprise celebrating the resurrection, concluding with a powerful rendition of "Crown Him with Many Crowns" will be performed on Easter morning at the 8:15 am service.

Please Join Us on Good Friday, April 18th at 7:00pm!

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.

New Members Reception

New Members of First Lutheran Church will be recognized on Wednesday, April 2nd, Saturday, April 5th, and Sunday, April 6th as we welcome everyone who have recently become part of the First Lutheran family. They will be introduced during the worship services, and there will be a special time of fellowship between the 8:15am and 10:15am worship services on Sunday, April 6th. Please let Pastor Glen or the church office know your plans of which worship service you will be attending to be recognized as a new member. Call the church office at 402-426-4073 or email Pastor Glen at pastorglen@firstlutheranblair.org.

FLC KIDS NEWS

A note from Erika:

Hang on tight!! April is coming in fast!
We have many celebrations during April!

Palm Sunday (4/13)

PreK-5th graders sing at 10:15am worship
(Sanctuary at 9:45am)

Maundy Thursday (4/17):

1st Communion for FLC students at 7pm worship

Good Friday (4/18):

A musical cantata performed by
FLC Chancel Choir at 7pm

Easter (4/20):

Worship at 6:30am, 8:15am, & 10:15am and
breakfast served 7:15-10am

APRIL 2025

Next BIG Event:

Kids sing on Palm Sunday! **April 13th at 10:15am**

Please bring your kids to the Sanctuary at
9:45am on Sunday, April 13th. We will
march in to the beginning song, sing our 2
selections, and then your kids will come to
sit with you. It will be a joyous morning!
Please don't miss it!!

Looking ahead:

APRIL 2ND	Bread for Community Zacchaeus was happy to welcome Jesus
APRIL 9TH	Bread for the Road Even the stones shout out about God's love
APRIL 16TH	NO CLASSES - Holy Week
APRIL 23RD	Bread for Feasting Jesus told us to feed his sheep
APRIL 30TH	Last LIFE Night Family Scavenger Hunt @ 6:45pm!!

Apr Kids Offering:



FA is a nationwide network of food banks
and pantries meant to help hungry people
gain access to healthier food. Over 98% of
donations are used to directly help millions
of people facing hunger.

APRIL BIBLE VERSE:

[Simon] said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I
love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."
John 21:15

FLC YOUTH

NEWS

APRIL 2025



Announcements

NO LIFE Night/Confirmation

Wednesday, April 16th

Holy Week - no services or classes

Easter Sunday

Sunday April 20th

Worship @ 6:30am, 8:15am, 10:15am

Breakfast 7:15-10am

Graduate Recognition

Sunday, April 27th @ 10:15am

Confirmation Ceremony

Sunday, April 27th @ 2pm

Banquet & Rehearsal April 23rd

6:45pm @ Fellowship Hall

Last LIFE Night & Worship

Wednesday, April 30th

Confirmation Topics

6th & 7th:

Letters/Epistles, Faith Mentors,
Revelation & Trivia Party

8th:

Poems/Stoles, Faith Mentors,
Banquet & Q&A with High Schoolers

Fundraisers

BUTTER BRAIDS!!

Ready for pickup

April 9th after 2pm

EASTER BREAKFAST!!

Prep Work: Apr 19th 9-12pm

Serve: Apr 20th 6:30-10am

Cleanup: Apr 20th 11:30-12:30pm

FUNDS SUPPORT OUR FLC YOUTH FUND!!

9 to 12 YG Plans

- Apr 6: No Meeting
- **Apr 13: Passion Readers' Theatre**
 - Meet in Sanctuary at 4:30
 - Perform at 6:30pm
- Apr 20: No Meeting - Easter
- **Apr 27: Graduate Recognition**
 - 10:15am Worship Service
- **Watch for end of school year event in May or June!!**

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
April 2025**



Lenten Ingathering for the Oaks Indian Mission

FLC has had a relationship with the Oaks Indian Mission that spans over a century. In 2024, OIM provided for the needs of 75 children. In addition, the Mission, working with the Cherokee Nation and Homeland Security provided housing for seventeen native and immigrant families. Finally, 1,100 therapy sessions were provided to educate, equip and support children and families, enabling them to thrive.

The Lenten Ingathering for Oaks continues through Sunday, April 6th. Congregation members are invited to support the mission's work by contributing needed items. These can be brought to the church through Sunday, April 6th 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.

Looking ahead to May, the Committee is planning Courageous Conversation #5 for Wednesday evening, May 7th. This will begin with a potluck supper, and more details will follow in the May *Ambassador*. Also being planned for May is our annual Mother's Day ingathering for The Bridge, the local organization that provides support for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault.

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.*

NOTES♦DATES♦REMINDERS

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 13
Worship at 8:15am & 10:15am
Sunday School children sing at 10:15am
6:30pm Readers' Theatre
presented by FLC Youth

Wednesday, April 16th
No LIFE Night Worship or Classes
5:30pm-6:30pm Mid Week Meal

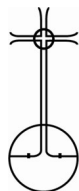
Maundy Thursday, April 17th
11am Senior Citizen Worship & Lunch
7pm Evening Worship
1st Communion offered



Good Friday, April 18th
12:05pm Community Good Friday Worship
at First Lutheran Church
(sponsored by the Washington
County Ministerial)
7pm Good Friday Cantata
with FLC Adult Choir

Saturday, April 19th
5pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 20th
6:30am—Sunrise Service
8:15am—Traditional Worship
10:15am—Contemporary Worship
FLC Youth Breakfast served
after Sunrise Service —10am



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