

### NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

Just today I read an article that covered a shipping shutdown in China that will impact delivery of goods until the start of 2022. What caused this shutdown? COVID-19. Two things struck me about that article: one, I still have trouble believing that a shutdown of ships in China in June will affect me in Blair during December; two, is COVID-19 still a thing? Sometimes I get so caught up living in the bubble that is the middle part of the US that I lose track of the rest of the universe.

It is weird, but I generally don't think about COVID-19 too much these days. And since I thought about it EVERY DAY for over a year, it is a rather nice break. I also don't believe we've seen the end of mask wearing, as masks proved to be a great help in reducing serious cold and flu cases as well. It would not surprise me to hear later this Fall or Winter to be invited to wear a mask to help keep people safe from airborne diseases.

But now that I don't worry as much about COVID-19, what should I worry about? Our congregation is slowly getting together again, and almost every week different people return for the first time. For some who have been away from the building over a year, it is pretty emotional to sit and ponder the majesty of God, the compassion of Jesus, and the energy of the Spirit.

We do have a need going into the last half of 2021. Our finances, helped greatly by the pandemic aid of a PPP loan/grant, will need to grow during these next few months. If you are able to help out with a contribution to the general fund or the building fund that would be wonderful as each are in need at this time. Our Council will continue to monitor the situation closely during the next months, but please know that your gifts and donations are appreciated as we continue to minister God's mission here in Blair.

I do hope as we round into the Summer that you find ways to enjoy the wonder and beauty of God's creation. I hope you can celebrate the love we share in Jesus Christ, and the power of the Spirit gives you energy going forward.

--Pastor Scott



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### **Our Mid Week Meal is in need of cookies/bars.**

**PLEASE, if you're able to provide 3 dozen cookies/bars for a meal, PLEASE sign up by contacting Erika Cada at (402) 533-0918. We are needing 18 dozen cookies/bars each week for the Mid Week Meal. We are needing people to sign up for future dates.**

**You can call or text Erika.**

**Thank you for helping us continue to serve our community (up to 200 individuals) every week.**

## ***Church Office Closed***

The church office will be closed

Monday, July 5th.

**Happy 4th of July!**

## **Save the Date**

First Lutheran Church WILL be hosting our annual Craft Fair on Saturday, November 20th from 9:00-3:00. If you are crafty, please consider purchasing a booth. Specific information will be sent in July. New vendors can email [FLCKraftFair@gmail.com](mailto:FLCKraftFair@gmail.com)



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

†Family of Leona Ruhge (mother of Rick Ruhge)  
 †Family of Tim Borges (brother of Ann Grinbergs)  
 †Family of Dorothy Thomas  
 †Family of Ronald Fuhlrodt  
 †Family of Ed Anderson (brother of Joe Anderson)  
 †Family of Rev. John W. Nielsen  
 †Nicole Schmidt - prayers and healing  
 †Riley  
 †Wayne (father of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing  
 †Pat Bentsen - prayers for healing  
 †Jeff Gunderson - healing  
 †Scott Ross - healing  
 †Kyler, Sydney, and unborn baby, Keyson (nephew and family of Deb Henson) - strength & prayers  
 †Georgia (great niece of Debbie Katt) -prayers & healing  
 †Sharon Parsons - healing  
 †Barb  
 †Rod  
 †Ann Grinbergs - healing  
 †Kyler Reed - healing  
 †Arland Gross (father of Jerry Gross) - prayers & healing  
 †Justin Roberts-healing  
 †Malachi Chrans-surgery & healing  
 †Gary Ford-prayers & healing  
 †Kenneth Wilson (father of Melody Dubon) - healing  
 †Clyde Johnson - healing & prayers  
 †Scott & Katie Abrams - prayers & healing  
 †Jim Dinsmore  
 †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  
 †Washington County Food Pantry  
*and all those we name in our hearts.*

*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

### 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

### *July 22—24!!*



It's time for the FLC Youth Garage Sale!!

Thursday, 7/22 @ 8am-8pm  
Friday, 7/23 @ 8am—8pm  
Saturday, 7/24 @ 8am—12pm

We have more STUFF than you can imagine!!  
Come find some treasures, & bring your friends!!  
Funds support the ELCA Youth Gathering trip to  
Minneapolis in July, 2022

*Summertime*



## NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

# Sunday Night Live Worship!

July 11, 18, and 25 @ 7pm

*Join us for a new worship experience with live music, activities, holy communion, and a message each Sunday evening.*

*Join us for a new style of worship to begin each week this summer.*

July Theme: Saints

### Stewardship Note

Thank you for your generous financial giving this year, and our current financial picture is a mixed blessing.

#### GENERAL FUND

#### BUILDING FUND

Year-to-Date Revenue: May 2021    \$204, 696.48

\$79. 235.62

Year-to-Date Expenses:                    \$142,684.39

\$73,330.74

Net total                                        \$62, 088.99

\$5904.88

PPP loan/grant:                                (\$62,614.70)

Without the PPP loan/grant, our General Fund would be just a little ahead, and our Building Fund reserves are getting low.

We trust as our congregation works to re-open and expand ministries that financial contributions will grow and allow us to continue to serve God's mission here in Blair. For those who are able, we invite you to consider a donation to First Lutheran at this time. And for all to keep the congregation and its ministries in your prayers. It is a new day for all of us as we emerge from COVID-19, and as the Psalmist reminds us "joy comes with the morning." Thank you for your support.



## *Thank You Notes*

Dear First Lutheran Church,

The Children of Dorothy Thomas appreciate and thank you the First Lutheran Community of Blair, for the friendship, flowers, gifts and encouraging cards she received prior to her passing. Your love blessed her life.

-Shirley Thomas

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you to my friends at First Lutheran for the 2 beautiful yellow roses I received for my 100th Birthday. Also, thank you to Rod Hansen for bringing them to my birthday party. And also, thank you for the beautiful card.

Thank you again,  
Louise Mencke

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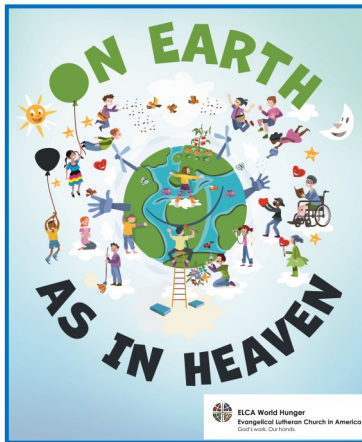
## WOMEN'S NEWS

Reminder: You can still donate items for the Health and School Kits that the Women put together. Please see a list of items to donate below.

Ivory Soap  
70-sheet notebooks  
16 or 24 crayons  
Ballpoint pens  
12" ruler  
Bath towel (52" x 27")

If you would like to donate these items you can donate by dropping off in the church office. If you have questions please call the church office at (402) 426-4073.

## NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

VBS 2021  
Supply List

We need the following supplies for our VBS this year:  
Please drop them at the church office anytime before July 7th.

**ART:** 20 black Fine Tip Sharpie markers  
70 standard size bars of Ivory soap  
70 empty/washed/safely edged 14.5 oz cans  
Various kinds/designs of washi tape  
Empty rectangular tissue boxes  
Empty paper towel rolls  
200+ large rubber bands

**GAMES:** 20-30 pool noodles  
20 frisbees  
Paint-sample strips (rainbow colors, brown, black, & white)

**SIMULATION STATION:** 3 decks of playing cards

**Worship Times for July**

Saturday Evening-6pm  
Sunday Morning-9:30am  
Sunday Evening-7pm

**Please join us!**

"In order to continue safe Covid practices as we hold Vacation Bible School and worship at FLC, we encourage/recommend that all individuals who are unvaccinated wear masks while in our building. Thank you for helping us continue to safely worship and hold events for our congregation and community at FLC."



## Sunday Night Live Worship!

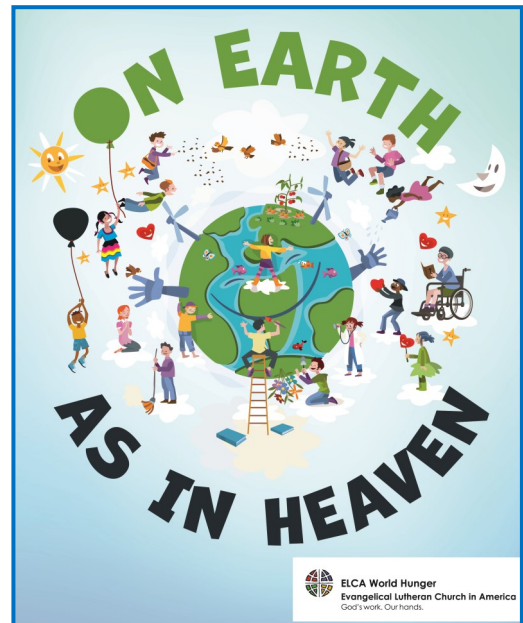
July 11, 18, and 25 @ 7pm

Join us for a new worship experience with live music, activities, holy communion, and a message each Sunday!

This worship service is specifically designed for families—JOIN US!

July theme: Saints

# VBS 2021



July 12-16, 2021

9am—12pm

VBS is **AT CHURCH** this year!!

Registration form included in Ambassador.

Contact Erika if you still need one.

ALL children 3 years old thru 5th grade are welcome! Spread the word!!

**WE NEED MORE KIDS!!**

**Contact Erika to register!!**





FLC YOUTH  
News!!

## Sunday Night Live worship!

July 11, 18, & 25 @ 7pm

Join us for a new worship experience with live music, activities, holy communion, and a message each Sunday!

This worship service is specifically designed for families—JOIN US!

July Theme: Saints

## Return of 9 to 12 Youth Group

### When? Where? What?

Since we have not had Youth Group in over a year, I want to make sure we begin a program that meets the needs of the KIDS.

I need your input—please let me know what works best!!

Day of the week, time of day, topics, location, setting, etc.

402-533-0918 or [ecada@firstlutheranblair.org](mailto:ecada@firstlutheranblair.org)

2022 ELCA  
YOUTH GATHERING  
**boundless**  
GOD BEYOND MEASURE

**ELCA Youth Gathering**  
**Planning Meeting #3!!**  
**July 28@ 7pm in Youth Room**

This meeting is required.  
This meeting is for students, only.  
**Can't wait to see you!!**



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 2021**



**Saturday and Sunday, July 3rd and 4th worship services** will include a **“Blessing of the First Fruits” Ceremony** as we open our **Summer Garden Market**. However, our **Garden Market** will look different this year. The **GARDEN MARKET PRODUCE WILL BE A PART OF THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL**. Locally grown fresh produce from local First Lutheran Church gardeners will be a part of the Wednesday evening meals provided by First Lutheran Church this summer. Rather than the traditional market vegetable cart of the past several years, this year First Lutheran gardeners will be donating vegetables to be given to families who receive the Mid-Week Meal and are in need of produce through the summer. The produce will be delivered to them alongside their Mid-Week Meal on Wednesday evenings. According to Jim Peterson, spokesperson for the Social Concerns committee, it was felt by committee members that this would be a different and perhaps better use for the donated vegetables. Beginning the week of July 4th, donated vegetables can be brought to the church any time on Tuesday and Wednesday morning. If they are brought when the church is open (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) they may be put on a special table in a corner of the Fellowship Hall. Signs will be in place directing donors as to where the vegetables should be placed. If you are bringing produce to be handed out, please bring it to the church by 2pm on Wednesdays so it can be included in the meal bags. Because of this change, gardeners are encouraged to stick with the basic vegetables that they have grown. Examples include squash including zucchini, tomatoes, potatoes, sweet corn, peas, cucumbers, beets, and Carrots. Other vegetables and fruits will certainly be accepted. However, plants, flowers, and other non-food items should probably not be donated.

**Also, please note that receptacles are in place for contributions to the WASHINGTON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY any time!** Let us always remember our Lord’s admonition to **“Feed the Hungry,”** and these receptacles provide us with the opportunity to do so for our “near neighbors.”

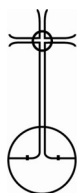
**A BIG “THANK YOU”** is extended to all of you who contributed generously to our **MOTHERS’ DAY INGATHERING** for our local crisis center, **“THE BRIDGE,”** from Jody Kozial, our Washington County representative of that agency!

**Also, many thanks to all** who took the time to sign or write letters to our senators and representative during our **“BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS” campaign**, thus advocating for expanded anti-hunger programs in response to the increased crisis brought about by COVID-19 pandemic.

**Have you missed the opportunity to buy Fair Traded products at First Lutheran Church during the pandemic?** If so, you will be happy to hear that **EQUAL EXCHANGE PRODUCTS—coffee, tea, chocolate, and nuts**, will again be offered on the first weekend of each month, starting with **July 31 and August 1**.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY plans to repair and improve five homes in Blair in 2021!** You will have an opportunity to hear more about this project and to contribute financially at our worship services on Saturday and Sunday, **August 7 and 8**.





FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2146 WRIGHT STREET  
BLAIR, NE 68008  
July 2021