

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.
Acts 1:22–26

Do you believe in luck?

As we were reminded at the recent Courageous Conversations event, sometime believing in luck can become an addiction, and there is a significant and well-heeled industry willing to take advantage of it. Families and lives have been and are being destroyed by government-sanctioned enticement of the desperate search for luck.

I hope you don't believe in that.

But it's March, the month of celebrating symbols of luck like shamrocks and leprechauns and bearing witness to those "lucky" Cinderella teams knocking off top seeds in the NCAA basketball tournament. It is a 31 day celebration of the human need to believe in the impossible. Maybe it's the gray and gloomy weather of the season that makes us need to have such hope. Or maybe it's just us.

In reality, we're more like Julius Caesar. March is nothing but bad luck. Beware.

Faith is not luck. But they both share a recognition that life is too often governed by powers beyond our control, and that's where the actual gray area comes into play. Where is the line between luck and faith? What separates superstition from theology?

The apostles put us in a precarious place. Faced with the predicament of replacing the disciple Judas, they act in the proper and faithful way: they pray. They lift up their needs to God just as they had been taught, they turn to God to deal with a decision that is beyond their wisdom and ability. But then they scandalize that good work of faith and turn to the dice decide their fate. It is as if trusting God was not enough and the felt a need for some luck too.

Can you imagine the liturgical "throwing of the dice" as part of our Sunday worship? Me neither.

The crux of the story is not the disciple's strategy. Rather, it is the precipitating event – the betrayal of Judas and his subsequent death – that must have our attention. Judas's duplicity and demise poses an unintelligible and real threat. There is no easy answer to the questions it raises about choice and trust and luck. Judas is the antithesis of all three. We can argue about whether or not Judas actually had a choice, we can lament his lack of trust in Jesus, we can emphasize with the unlucky circumstances that made him Judas in the first place. There are no easy answers.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	1 & 2
Notes, Dates, & Reminders	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, & 14
Thank you's	10
Children's Ministries	11
Youth News	12
Social Concerns	13



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!!
Contact Erika for more info.

(Continued from Page 1)

Perhaps the rest of the disciples had all of those thoughts too. They had traveled with Judas for three years, shared their experiences of Jesus' words and deeds, reveled in the possibilities of his messiahship and the onrushing promise of the Kingdom of God together. Did they see Judas as a brother? Were they shocked and hurt by his betrayal, grieved at his death? Would they have done something different if they could?

Would we? That is the real issue here – there are just too many moments in this life that we just can't do anything with.

And that's where faith comes in. It comes to us in the times and spaces where we find ourselves helpless, maybe even hopeless. And while I would surely not advocate tossing the dice to decide every important question in life, we must not dismiss what those moments feel like. And that is why we take this journey of Lent each year – not to find easy answers to difficult questions but to be in the presence of the God who shares our journey.

Such a journey leads to an even greater mystery – the Cross. Incomprehensible, impenetrable, stupefying. What can we do with such inestimable grace? Do we have sufficient faith for this moment?

Lucky for us, something even greater, something even more unimaginable, lies just the other side ...

-Pastor Glen

Valentines for Neighbors



Our PreK—5th grade students recently created 91 Valentines that we shared with Mosaic residents/donors, Mid Week Meal recipients, and Open Door Mission!



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

FLC Variety Show & Pie Auction!!

Presented by FLC Youth to NOYG



**Sunday, April 7th
6pm
LIFE Center**



We need **ACTS!!**

Do you juggle? Act? Dance? Play an
instrument? Tell jokes?

Open to all ages!

Talk to Erika!!



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

✠Family of Frank Korshoj
✠Family of Ernie Smith (Heidi Garnett's Uncle)
✠Rachal
✠Trina Kaiser - healing
✠David Kaiser - healing
✠Helen Garnett (Jim Garnett's mom) - healing
✠June Jenson - prayers
✠Chris Chance - healing
✠Randy Backman - healing
✠Clint Clausen - prayers
✠Crew Workman - healing
✠Mike Boeka - prayers for healing
✠Deloris Matson - early stage lymphoma - healing & prayers
✠John Wick
✠Vivian Walvoord - healing & prayers
✠Betty Wolsmann - healing
✠Florence Larsen - prayers for healing
✠Marilyn O'Neil
✠Keith Matzen & family - prayers
✠Dana - healing
✠Clark Jenson
✠Betty Anderson
✠Sunni Wilson (mother of Melody Dubon)
✠Tim Grinbergs
✠Wayne (father of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing
✠Ruth Ann Persson - healing
✠Gordon Soderberg - healing
✠Irene Thorsen
✠Jo Royuk (mother of Anne Chrans) - healing
✠Russ Sonderup - prayers
✠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
✠Patrick McKinnis - continued healing
✠Stacy Thompson Green (daughter of Marcy Bottorff) – prayers & healing
✠Larry Kastrup – healing
✠Leo Aguilar-Hicks – healing for Leukemia
✠Lekura Parish
✠Maui Wildfire Relief and all those we name in our hearts.

Reminder:

Pastor Glen will
be preaching at
Good
Shepherd
Home on the
1st Sunday of
each month.
Please let your
friends and
family that are
at Good
Shepherd
Home know. If
you have any
questions
please call the
church office at
(402)
426-4073.



A Passion Reading

presented by FLC Youth

Sunday, March 24th @ 7pm

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

A powerful experience for all.

*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

FLC Youth Silent Auction

Bidding: March 2nd—March 24th

Get your bidding number from Erika!!

Packages Include:

Baker's Delight	Campout	Teacher Love
Movie Night	For the Birds	Truck Haulin'
Go Big Red!	Margaritaville!	Art Lovers
Omaha SuperNovas	Take Care of You	Staycation
Oooh La La	Puppy Love	Movie Night
Coffee Lovers	Grillmaster	
Golf Lovers	Beach Bum	

**Winners announced at Variety Show & Pie Auction
April 7th @ 6pm**

Confirmation Service Night

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

They worked on the following projects:

- Rainbow craft kits for Good Shepherd residents
- Valentine cookies for employees at Carter Place, Crowell, and Good Shepherd
- Tied quilts for Lutheran World Relief and other recipients
- Love Bags for clients of The Bridge



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

***Rushed on Wednesdays?
Let us do the cooking!***

W.O.W. Meal is back again!

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.*

Communion Update:

Thank you for helping with this accommodation for Pastor Glen: because it is difficult for Pastor to bring communion to members in the pews, if you find it physically difficult to come forward during communion, we invite you to pick up the communion elements as you come into the Sanctuary and receive them during the communion liturgy when the Pastor indicates.

678 Service Plunge!

We visited 2 places on our Service Plunge!

First, we made valentines and spent time with many individuals at Mosaic in Papillion.

Next, we had lunch at Open Door Mission and worked in their Timberlake Outreach Center.



We are now livestreaming our worship services on Facebook Live.

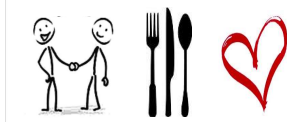
Please join www.facebook.com/flcblair to be alerted whenever a live video begins. This is a real-time, virtual worship experience, and we invite you to join us if you can't be with us in person.

Each live video will begin as the regularly scheduled worship time.



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!

Butter Braid Sales!!



Until March 6th

Contact any FLC Youth or contact Erika to order!

Pick up — Begins March 20th after 12pm

Check the kitchen list to find out which church freezer
your braids are located in!!

\$15 each

Apple

Cinnamon

Blueberry & Cream Cheese

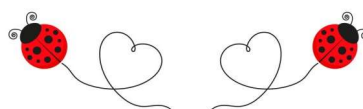
Raspberry

Strawberry & Cream Cheese

Cherry

4 Cheese & Herb

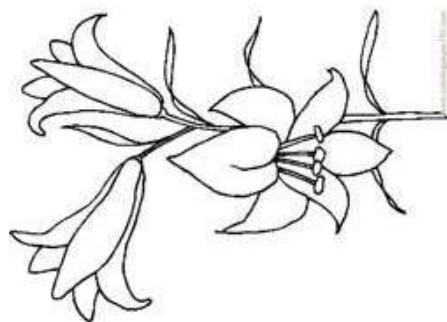
Caramel Rolls



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Easter Lily Order Form

We will be using Easter lilies to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 31st. 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.



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 March 25th.

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:

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, March 31st
7:30am—10am

Where: Fellowship Hall

A free will donation will support our trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in July



Good Friday Cantata In My Place by Craig Courtney

Masterful compositions and inspired narratives will facilitate a memorable and meaningful worship experience for Good Friday. The First Lutheran Chancel Choir presents this distinctive blend of original melodies and creative hymn settings in this poignant musical journey that follows Christ to the cross. It is a compelling reminder of the sacrifice that Jesus willingly made as he gave his life for each of us.

Please Join Us on Good Friday, March 29th at 7:00pm!

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH SENIOR CITIZEN WORSHIP AND LUNCH

MAUNDY THURSDAY
March 28, 2024

11am—Worship with
Holy Communion
followed by lunch

Please call the church office at 426-4073
to RSVP by Friday, March 22nd.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



ATTENTION High School Seniors and College Students: The Christian Growth Board is accepting scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 school year for post-secondary education. 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 14, 2024.

Safety Note from Pastor Glen:

Safety is an act of love! As COVID remains a threat in our community, and as flu, RSV, and other infectious diseases are on the move let us resolve again to use safe practices for the sake of one another. There is hand sanitizer available at the various entrances to our building and we would ask that you use it every time you enter the church. We will also make masks available for anyone who would choose to use them. At this point we will maintain our current worship and fellowship practices, but please know that we will continuously review them as is necessary to fulfill our responsibility to each other. Thank you for your sense of grace and mutual respect.

-Pastor Glen

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

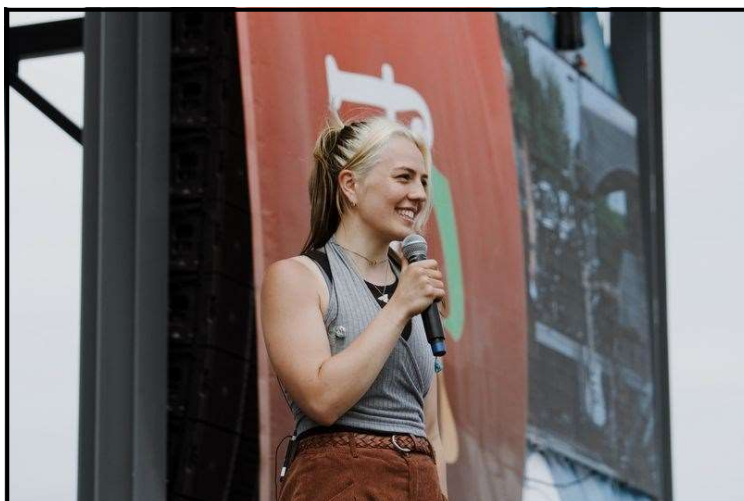
Allison Eide is coming back!!

Concert on Wednesday, April 3rd @ 6:45pm

Her new EP is Love Who I Am!!

Join Allison and her band for songs and stories about Jesus and mental health. Experience the loving heart of Jesus in your mess—come laugh, cry, sing or introvert in the back—whatever you need!!

Contact Erika for more info!



LOVE



Women's Bible Study

The Friday Morning Women's Bible Study will begin a new study entitled "**From Beginning to Forever**" by Elizabeth Woodson. "Too often we have just a fragmented understanding of parts of the bible. This leads us to see the Scripture through the lens of our individual stories, causing us to miss God's bigger story—His redemption and restoration of the entire world. In this study, Elizabeth Woodson explains how all sixty-six books of the Bible combine to form one unified narrative. We will see how the rich theological truths found in Genesis through Revelation show us the eternal significance of what God is doing in the world and how He invites us to be a part of it." This Bible study will combine a video with a study guide and meets in the church library on Friday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. If interested in coming to this Bible study, contact Susie Pinguoch at (402) 426-8182 or email at spinguoch@gpc.com.

Funeral Coordinator

The Women's Steering Team is in need of a Funeral Coordinator. This person 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.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed
Monday, April 1st—the day after
Easter.



Thank You Notes

Dear First Lutheran Church,

The family wishes to thank the congregation for their words of comfort and kindness after Raymon Jensen's passing. Ray loved being part of this church and looked forward to being at the church with his friends and coworkers.

-Janie, Ellen, and Jean

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Lent Focus is LOVE

Why is Lent such a gloomy season? Maybe because we're all just gloomy inside. NO! People who live in the grace of God should never despair. Lent is a time to focus our attention on something wonderful and amazing: that God loves us so much that he gives us his only Son, a love expressed in the passion of Good Friday and fulfilled in the light of the Easter dawn. Our lives are not defined by sadness, they are defined by love. And we exercise that gift in the people we love and how we love them.

Wednesday mid-week worship at 6:15 pm. Our weekly readings ponder five different stories of love in the gospels. As Jesus encounters people on his journeys, so we reflect on the people we meet every day and how we show love to them.

Sunday is a Day of Promise. Our scripture readings during the season of Lent focus on the promised blessings of God given over and over again, like those to Noah, Abram, and Moses. God promises us healing in our ailments and that his Word will be written on our hearts. He promises the coming of his eternal reign and his constant presence in the bread and wine. Lent is a season to exercise a discipline of love, of knowing that we are blessed and living a life of gratitude for all of God's gifts.



Monday Morning Bible Study: A Love Story in Three Parts

This month, as we prepare for Holy Week, we will take an in-depth look at the events of that most-important week in our faith story: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. These are the days when everything is at stake and through which God changes our world and our lives. Join this detailed look at the texts and contexts of the Gospel accounts that define our faith. Monday mornings at 9:00 am.



**Daylight Saving time
will begin on Sunday,
March 10th!
Remember to set you
clocks ahead one hour
before going to bed
Saturday night.**



3rd Grade 1st Communion

Maundy Thursday Worship Service
March 28th @ 7pm

Classes:

Saturday, March 16 at 10am
OR

Sunday, March 17 at 2pm
Both will meet in the Choir Room

Please contact Erika to sign up!



March Lessons

Mar 13: Spiritual Practice

We will talk about how spending time in nature is a way to practice our faith, and we will plant a seed!

Mar 20: Music and Easter Art Project

We will practice our music for Palm Sunday and do an Easter art project!

**PLEASE NOTE: NO CLASS
MARCH 6th & MARCH 27th**



VBS 2024

**Mark your
calendars!!**

**June 24—28th
9am—12pm**

Registration begins
April 1st!!

KIDS SING on PALM SUNDAY!

March 24th @ 10:15am Worship

Sanctuary at 9:45am for practice
The children will parade in with their palms and ribbons
and sing at the beginning of the service.
They will sit with their families after singing.

Children's Offering in March

This month, our offering will be shared with
Feed My Starving Children

Feed My Starving Children feeds God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. Donations fund the MannaPack ingredients (meals designed to reduce malnutrition) and volunteers hand-pack the meals. Meals are distributed throughout the world, feeding children and saving lives. Over 90% of donations are directed toward feeding kids in need.





**CREATED
TO BE**

New Orleans (NOYG) Team Bonding #7

March 17 @ 3pm
Snacks and meeting

Created to be **DISRUPTIVE**
to work for justice for our siblings

REQUIRED for ALL participants!!
Plan Variety Show/Pie Auction!!



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

9 to 12 Plans

- Mar 3rd: Hang out with dinner
- Mar 10th: SPRING BREAK
- Mar 17th: No meeting—New Orleans
- Mar 24th: Palm Sunday Readers' Theatre
- Mar 31st: EASTER

DO NOT MISS THIS!!

Palm Sunday Readers' Theatre
March 24th @ 7pm

Easter Breakfast
March 31st @ 7:30—10:am

Variety Show & Pie Auction
April 7th @ 6pm

Butter Braid Sales!!



Until March 6th

ELCA YG (New Orleans)—Sell 6
All other FLC Youth—Sell 4

Customer pickup begins March 20th

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
March 2024**



“Have a Heart for Hunger” Campaign Nears End.

At this writing, only this coming Wednesday night service (February 28th) is left for the “Have a Heart for Hunger” campaign. With last weeks total of 125 pounds of food delivered to the Washington County Food Pantry, the total amount of food from the four-week campaign comes out to be 322 pounds of food. This added to the 531 pounds of food from the in-store collection at the Family Fare on February 10 gives a total of 853 pounds of food and 264 dollars in cash donated to the Food Bank from First Lutheran.

The members of the Social Concerns Committee wish to thank all of those who participated in this campaign either with your donations or your help at the in-store event on February 10th. Your contribution has gone a long-ways in helping some Washington County families from going hungry in April and in particular, over Easter. Thank you.

First Lutheran Church Well Represented at the Washington County Recycling Day

A very big thank you goes out to the estimated 30 or more volunteers from First Lutheran Church who volunteered to assist in the Washington County Recycling Day on Saturday, February 24th. The volunteers seemed to be having a lot of fun while still keeping the vehicles rolling through the recycling center. Thank you.

“Courageous Conversations” Had Inaugural Program on Sunday, February 25th.

Approximately 40 members of First Lutheran Church participated in the inaugural session of what the Social Concerns Committee hope to be several more “Courageous Conversations” in the next several months. The topic for this first session was on gambling.

During this session, two invited speakers spoke about gambling from their perspectives. Lisa Smith, the sister of Lynette Jennings from First Lutheran, spoke of her experiences as the wife of a gambling Addict. She was followed by Pat Loontger of the organization “Gambling with the Good Life” who provided some of the history and facts regarding gambling in Nebraska. Both individuals provided some valuable and interesting insight into gambling. Our thanks also go out to Glen Andersen who was instrumental in inviting Pat Loontger and setting up the program.

At this time, the Social Concerns Committee has not set up further sessions in the “Courageous Conversation” series waiting to see how this first session went. We hope to be setting up a series of these types of programs in the near future. Be looking for further information in the E-Blasts and Ambassador.

Equal Exchange Booth to Be Set Up on First Week-End of the Month.

“Equal Exchange” is a program set up to help Third World Farmers in the selling of their products for a fair and equitable price by by-passing the middle man. Such items as chocolate candy, pecans, teas, coffees and other items are available for sale. Beginning in March, on the first Sunday of each month, a booth will be set up at First Lutheran offering these products for sale. Please take a look and see if there is something that you would like. Not only will you be helping third world country farmers, but you will be getting a wonderful product.



NOTES♦DATES♦REMINDERS

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 24
Worship at 8:15am & 10:15am
Sunday School children sing at 10:15am
7pm Readers' Theatre
presented by FLC Youth

Wednesday, March 27
No LIFE Night Worship or Classes
5:30pm-6:30pm Mid Week Meal

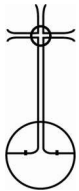
Maundy Thursday, March 28
11am Senior Citizen Worship & Lunch
7pm Evening Worship
1st Communion offered



Good Friday, March 29
12:05pm Community Good Friday Worship
at First United Methodist Church
(sponsored by the Washington
County Ministerial)
7pm Good Friday Cantata
with FLC Adult Choir

Saturday, March 30
5pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, March 31
7am—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
 March 2024