

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

“All the church ever does is talk about money!”

- “Ah, you who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is room for no one but you, and you are left to live alone in the midst of the land! The LORD of hosts has sworn in my hearing: Surely many houses shall be desolate, large and beautiful houses, without inhabitant.” Isaiah 5:8-9
- “He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.” Luke 1:52-53
- “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.” Luke 4:18
- “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21
- It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” Mark 10:25
- “Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.” Luke 6:24
- “It is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, ‘The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.’” II Corinthians 8:13-15
- “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” I Timothy 6:10

And that’s just a small sample. Half of Jesus’ parables are about wealth, money, and property.

What if the problem is that we don’t talk about money enough?

You will tell me that it’s not about money – it’s about faith, spirituality, charity, love of Jesus, and so on and so on. Except that it is in fact about money, about the idolatry of worldly security and power, the incarnate realities of greed and corruption that manifest sin in the world, the brokenness that destroys peace and thwarts justice and separates us from the love of God. In the same way that we cannot talk about God apart from the reality of Jesus, so we cannot talk about discipleship and stewardship without speaking truth about money.

Of course, we don’t want to talk about money. Not that it’s too personal or impolite but that we are ashamed to admit that we are powerless over it, that we love it in spite of the harm it does to us, that it has become our god.

There is only one god more powerful than money. God.

Our total and reckless worship of money is simply an idolatry borne from fear and despair and emptiness. The world has taught us that although we can’t buy happiness, we can probably rent it, and at least save ourselves from all of the other bad alternatives out there. The world tells us that money has become our refuge and our strength, a very present help in time of trouble.

(Pastor Glen’s Newsletter Article Continued on Page 2)

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FLC Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 17 @ 10:15am

Please join us to hear our children's voices tell the story of Jesus' birth.

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 October, November, and December. 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.

(Continued from Page 1)

And the funny part (not ha ha funny, but strange funny) is that many people believe this is true even if they don't actually have any money. We all support systems founded on the principle of how important money is. We fight to protect the rights of the few who actually have money and their right to both take it from us and keep it for themselves.

We need a new Word. We need a new way.

Stewardship is about money; stewardship is about putting money in its place. A wise man once said that the ultimate power over a thing is the ability to give it away. The best way to keep money in its place is to put it in its place, into the hands of God, in service of neighbor and world, in the transactions and interactions that bring life and light to the Kingdom of God in our midst. It's not that money isn't valuable. It's whether we value it enough to use it for good.

This November we will share conversations about money and faith because that's what Jesus taught us to do. And we will conduct those conversations for the same reasons he did: to set people from the constraining values of this world to experience the freedom and joy of his kingdom.

And we will do more than talk – we will act. We will commit the most sacred act of faith. We will promise to use the God-given gift of our treasure in faithful and powerful ways. Please watch your mail for a very special letter about our special celebration on November 22nd, 25th and 26th, as we consecrate ourselves and all that we have to the glory of God in Christ our King.

-Pastor Glen

November

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



**Help us fill our gas tank to
get to the ELCA Youth
Gathering in New Orleans!**

Please drop your change in
our gas pump collection box
to help pay our transportation
costs—\$15,500!!!

Thank You!



**We "Fall Back"
one hour. Turn
your clocks back
an hour before
going to bed on
Saturday,
November 4th!**

*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**

✠ Family of Judy Stork
✠ Pat Bentsen
✠ Betty Wolsmann - healing
✠ Florence Larsen - prayers for healing
✠ Marilyn O'Neil
✠ Mike Jenkins - cancer
✠ Cheryl Baron
✠ Keith Matzen & family - prayers
✠ Dana - healing
✠ Clark Jenson
✠ Betty Anderson
✠ Sunni Wilson (mother of Melody Dubon)
✠ Stephanie Johnson - healing
✠ Olivia Baker
✠ 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
✠ June Jenson - prayers & healing
✠ Frank Korshoj - healing
✠ Mary LaScala
✠ Kenny Truhlsen
✠ Martin Kuhr - prayers and healing
✠ Nicole Schmidt - 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
✠ 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
✠ Maui Wildfire Relief and all those we name in our hearts.

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

Could you help deliver the MWM 1 time/month?

Please let Erika know if you could give just ONE HOUR per MONTH
Please help us continue to serve our neighbors!!

Could you bake 3 dozen treats 1 time/month?

Please let Erika know if you could provide 3 dozen treats. You can also
click the signup.com link in the weekly Eblasts.



ADVENT PATH OF LIGHT

*Please join us for our 2nd annual
Advent Path of Light!*

We will join together as a congregation to begin the
season of Advent, of waiting and hoping for the birth
of our Savior.

Wednesday, November 29th
Following Worship Lab at 6:45pm

There will be stations to go through where you can
celebrate Advent with hope, peace, joy, and love.

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.*



Holiday Greenery

FLC Youth are selling evergreen wreaths, swags, & more!!

NOVEMBER 1st – NOVEMBER 19th
Pickup begins November 22nd after 10am
(items located inside Fellowship Hall east doors)

All funds raised will support:
FLC Youth Fund AND FLC Youth to New Orleans 2024

The women of First Lutheran are sponsoring their annual craft fair fund raiser on November 18, 2023. Volunteers are needed to bring baked goods for the bake sale, work at the bake sale table, serve the noon lunch, and clean up. Sign up sheets are available at the welcome center. Please consider helping at the craft fair. For more information, please contact Rhonda McMurtry at 402-427-3341. Thank you!

Special Call Process event

Sunday, November 12th – 3:00 pm

PMA Patrick Gregory, a Spiritual Director with the Nebraska Synod, will be with us to help us as we seek to wrap our search for a new Pastor in prayer. He will guide us in several prayer practices that will become a regular part of our life in the months ahead. We will also have updates from the Call Committee and Pastor Glen on where we are in the process and what we can expect next.

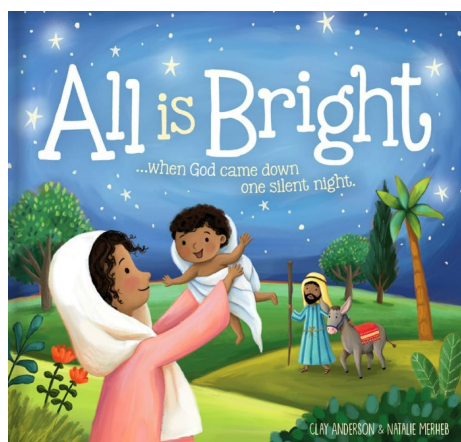
NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



30-Day Bible Scripture

CHALLENGE

Day 1 Colossians 4:2 "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving."	Day 2 2 Corinthians 9:15 "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"	Day 3 1 Thessalonians 5:18 "...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."	Day 4 1 Chronicles 16:34 "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."	Day 5 1 Corinthians 15:57 "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."	Day 6 Psalms 106:1 "Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."
Day 7 Colossians 3:15 "In You, O Lord, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness."	Day 8 Psalms 100:4 "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name."	Day 9 Psalms 107:21 "Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!"	Day 10 Colossians 1:12 "...giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light."	Day 11 Psalms 79:13 "So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, Will give You thanks forever; We will show forth Your praise to all generations."	Day 12 Luke 2:38 "And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem."
Day 13 Leviticus 22:29 "And when you offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord, offer it of your own free will."	Day 14 Psalms 30:4 "Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name."	Day 15 Psalms 35:18 "I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people."	Day 16 Psalms 69:30 "I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving."	Day 17 Psalms 26:7 "That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all Your wondrous works."	Day 18 Psalms 95:2 "Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms."
Day 19 1 Chronicles 16:8 "Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples!"	Day 20 Hebrews 13:15 "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."	Day 21 Psalms 140:13 "Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; The upright shall dwell in Your presence."	Day 22 Mark 14:23 "Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it."	Day 23 Luke 17:16 "...and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan."	Day 24 Ephesians 5:20 "...giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..."
Day 25 Philippians 4:6 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."	Day 26 Matthew 15:36 "And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude."	Day 27 2 Corinthians 2:14 "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place."	Day 28 2 Corinthians 4:15 "For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God."	Day 29 Colossians 2:6-7 "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."	Day 30 2 Thessalonians 2:13 "But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth..."



FLC Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 17 @ 10:15am

Please join us to hear our children's voices tell the story of Jesus' birth.

NOVEMBER LESSON THEMES

Nov 8 & 15: **Thanksgiving Lesson**
 God provides many blessings that we can and should remember at this time of year.

Nov 22: **NO CLASSES**
 Thanksgiving Eve

Nov 29: **Advent Path of Light**
 A time for families to experience the Advent themes of hope, peace, love, and joy at activity stations. Join us for fellowship as we wait for Jesus' birth.

In all things,
 give
thanks
 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Children's Offering in November

This month, our offering will be shared with
Washington County Food Pantry

The Washington County Food Pantry provides food to the hungry in Washington County. The food is provided through donations, purchases and the USDA.

All proceeds from Joseph's Coat Thrift Store are used to stock the food pantry, as well.

WASHINGTON
 COUNTY
FOOD
PANTRY
 at Joseph's Coat

I wish you, your family, and your friends a blessed Thanksgiving season filled with love and gratitude.

**Much love-
 Erika**

FLC YOUTH News!!



Youth Opps

9 to 12

High School Youth Group
Sundays 6-7:30pm

Discussion, dinner, games, & more
NO MTG 11/12 or 11/26
ADVENT PATH OF LIGHT 11/29

9ers

Wednesdays 6:45pm-7:45pm

Homework, hang out, & snacks
NO CLASS 11/22 or 11/29
ADVENT PATH OF LIGHT 11/29

678

Confirmation
Wednesdays 6:45pm-7:45pm

NO CLASS 11/22
ADVENT PATH OF LIGHT 11/29

Do justice, love
kindness, and
walk humbly with
your God.

Micah 6:8



New Orleans (NOYG) Team Bonding #3

November 12 @ 5pm

Dinner and ice cream treats

Created to be **AUTHENTIC**
Christ has called us because of
WHO we are.

REQUIRED for ALL participants!!

Advent Path of Light

Please join us for our 2nd annual
Advent Path of Light!

We will join together as a congregation
to begin the season of Advent, of
waiting and hoping for the birth of our
Savior.

Wednesday, November 29th
Following Worship Lab at 6:45pm

There will be stations to go through
where you can celebrate Advent with
hope, peace, joy, and love.

9 to 12 Youth Group

Sunday nights @ 6pm
No meeting on 11/12 or 11/26

This month we will play Sardines or Gaga Ball and have a
devotion, "Who is your everyone?" Bring a friend!

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
November 2023**

OUR GOD'S WORK/OUR HANDS project this fall, namely doing "random acts of kindness" resulted in the placing of 82 hearts attached to the moving chalkboard describing various acts of kindness done by congregation members and L.I.F.E. Night children. Our thanks goes to all who participated, and it is our hope that such acts become "habits" for all of us.

We THANK ALL who walked or contributed to our BLAIR CROP HUNGER WALK on October 8.

Together with our partners from First United Methodist Church 26 walkers participated and raised over \$2,500 (exact total not yet available) to help alleviate world Hunger. 25% of the funds raised will benefit our own **Washington County Food Pantry**. Due to the tragedy of ongoing war in Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza, and recurring natural disasters of earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, and fires, and climate change, raising money for vulnerable people, both locally and around the world, is needed now more than ever!

THANK YOU TO ALL who brought garden produce, eggs, or flowers to our **SUMMER GARDEN MARKET** and thanks also to those who faithfully shopped at the **Garden Market**. The total raised for ELCA WORLD HUNGER is **\$678.68!**

Our ELCA WORLD HUNGER EMPHASIS will be on November 11, 12, and 15. You will receive informational flyers and offering envelopes when you come to worship services on those dates. Millions of our neighbors around the globe are struggling with food insecurity. Hunger is currently far above pre-pandemic levels. As members of the ELCA, one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, we are uniquely positioned to reach communities in need, and to help secure long-term sustainable change. Your gifts to ELCA WORLD HUNGER support programs that address root causes of hunger. ELCA WORLD

HUNGER funds provide climate-smart agricultural training for local farmers, counseling for trauma survivors, and training in other trades, thus diversifying income sources to create sustainable livelihoods. God is calling us to strive for a just world where all are fed! From food pantries to health clinics, microloans to water wells, community meals to advocacy our gifts to ELCA WORLD HUNGER are at work in the world because of generous people like us! For "Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these who are members of my family, you have done it onto me." (Mt. 25:40b)



Please use the **ELCA WORLD HUNGER** envelopes for your special offerings. Checks can be made out to First Lutheran Church with ELCA WORLD HUNGER on the memo line. If you are not able to be at church at one of the four services mentioned, you may drop off your checks at the church office any time, bring them next week, or mail them to the church.

Watch for the CHRISTMAS ALTERNATIVE GIFT EXHIBIT that will appear at the November 18th FLC Craft Fair and throughout the Advent Season. It could solve your dilemma of what to buy for "the person who has everything" and help others in need--a win-win situation! Also Equal Exchange Fair traded products--coffee, tea, chocolates, and nuts--will again be offered. These items can make great "stocking stuffers."

Stay tuned for information about our **Annual COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER** on **NOVEMBER 23** at St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church and information regarding a **WINTER OUTERWEAR GATHERING** of winter outer garments for those in need.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Love Days Quilters

We had another successful year. Our totals were Quilts-308, School Kits-560, Health Kits-414, and Baby Layettes-60. Many people will benefit from these gifts. Thanks again to everyone that helps with these projects. Reminder we work every Tuesday morning from 8:30am-12:00 Noon in the Quilt Room. All are welcome!

-Wanda Blomker

Wednesday, November 1st
All Saints' Day

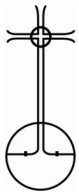
Please Join Us at Worship Lab as Rev. Joyce Miller leads us in a time of remembrance and celebration.

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.

Church Directories have Finally Arrived!

The Church Picture Directories have finally arrived! They are labeled and you can pick them up in the office. Please stop by and talk to Dawn in the church office to get your picture directory. If you have any questions please call the church office at (402) 426-4073.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2146 WRIGHT STREET
BLAIR, NE 68008
November 2023