

A Loving Devotion for October

A Harvest Promise

The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.
— Psalm 85:12

Sometimes the growing season seems very long. Months go by, and at times the growth of a crop seems almost imperceptible. In midsummer, the calendar seems full of weeks when storms or disease might threaten a crop, and harvesttime seems far away.

The same is true in our living before the Lord. While we occasionally have seasons of rapid growth in our faith, at other times the harvest seems far away, with many obstacles and challenges to trip us up. Storms of anger sweep over us, and we speak harsh words to a spouse or a child. We wilt in the heat and drought of financial pressures, and we are tempted to cut corners as stewards of the resources God has given.

When the harvest seems so far off, we need to hear again God's promise. Yes, sin is a reality we need to deal with. Yes, God judges our sin. But God has also shown us his unfailing love and has given us salvation in Christ.

The psalmist invites us to "listen to what God the Lord says" and to hear God's promise of peace. Jesus paid the price of our sin and completely fulfilled the demands of God's law on our behalf. In him, the harvest is guaranteed.

"The Lord will indeed give [us] what is good." In due time, our lives will yield a harvest in Christ.

Holy God, thank you for the word of peace you speak to us. Forgive our sins for Jesus' sake, and open our eyes to the growing seeds of righteousness and faithfulness within us. Amen.

Written by Joel Vande Werken



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Needed: supper for Youth Group!!

9 to 12 Youth Group meets on Sunday night each week, and these kids are ALWAYS hungry! If you would like to help provide a meal for this group, please contact Erika.

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.



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

✠Family of Muriel Neve
 ✠Soren Miller - healing
 ✠Terry Paulsen - prayers for good test results and healing
 ✠Jo Ann - healing
 ✠Jane - prayers of support
 ✠Wendy (Gunderson) Johnson (daughter of Wes & Esther Gunderson) - prayers for safe return - deployed to Poland
 ✠Jimmy Shaw - healing
 ✠Sue Marsh - healing
 ✠John Powell (boyfriend of Molly Dibben) - Leukemia - healing
 ✠Diane Troyer - healing
 ✠Merriebeth Ferguson (sister-in-law of Merriellen Bourn) - cancer - healing
 ✠Chris Kesling - healing
 ✠Tom - prayers
 ✠Russ Sonderup - prayers
 ✠Jeff Gunderson - healing
 ✠Alex - surgery & healing
 ✠Pat Bentsen
 ✠Carolyn (mother of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing
 ✠June Jenson - prayers & healing
 ✠Frank Korshoj - healing
 ✠Mary LaScala
 ✠Jenae - healing
 ✠Tim Jensen - healing
 ✠Debbie Kempcke - cancer - healing
 ✠Kenny Truhlsen
 ✠Clark Jenson - prayers and healing
 ✠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
 ✠Lutheran Disaster Response 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



WHEN? Halloween Night @ 5-7pm
WHO? PreK—5th graders
WHAT? Games and candy
Blessing of Trick or Treaters
WHERE? LIFE Center

To donate candy, contact Erika!!

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

678 Service Plunge Open Door Mission!



Did you know the average age of a homeless person in the Omaha area is 9 years old? This group of kids worked for several hours on Sept. 23rd. We sorted and hung clothing, helped with food checkout, sorted canned food, stocked shelves, and sorted jewelry and bedding. We enjoyed a lunch and tour of the Open Door Mission campus, as well.

New W.O.W. Meal is Here!!!

Join us for the Worship On Wednesday in-house meal from
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm prior to Worship Lab.

******* Suggested Donation of \$5/person *******

This meal is self-funded so we ***REALLY*** need your donations to be able to
keep this going on a

weekly basis.

Come at 5:30 to fuel your body

and then stay for Worship Lab at 6:15 to feed your soul.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Church Photo Directory!

**Please Sign Up!
You Don't Want to Miss This
Opportunity!**

Photography for our new pictorial directory starts soon! Photography will be held on the dates of: October 11-15 and October 18-22. If you have not scheduled your appointment, we still have slots available and we want you to be included. You are an important part of our church family and our Family Directory will not be complete without you!

For participating, you will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait as well as a new updated portrait directory for your family. The process will only take about 45 minutes and you will have the opportunity to purchase family portraits. You can schedule your appointment by contacting the church office or by clicking the link below. Thank you for being part of our church family!

<https://www.ucdir.com/schedule/login.php>

Could you help Erika?

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

SO MANY WAYS TO HELP OUR KIDS!!

LIFE Night Classroom Prep/Setup
(on Wed during day)

Confirmation Classroom Prep/Setup
(on Wed during day)

Niners Adult Sponsors
(on Wed night)

9 to 12 Youth Group Adult Sponsors
(on Sunday nights and at special events)

Talk to Erika for more info!!

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

The First Lutheran Church Women's Craft Fair is scheduled for November 19, 2022. Please save the date on your calendar as we will need vendors, shoppers, and volunteers to bake, set up, take down, and work as cashiers at various tables. Sign up sheets will be available at the end of October. For more information, contact Rhonda McMurtry at 402-427-3341. Thank you in advance for considering to help at the craft fair.



Thank you for your Family Fare receipts!!

With \$1000 from Spartan Nash and additional funds from fundraisers, FLC Youth were able to purchase a mobile Gaga Ball Pit. No more hauling wooden tables out to the parking lot!

THANK YOU!!

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Dear Members and Friends of First Lutheran Church:

First of all, we are happy to inform you that last year we distributed over \$60,000 towards the benevolent mission of First Lutheran Church (FLC). Some of the recipients of Christian Growth Funds include: college scholarships, Lutheran Family Services, Snack Pack Program, Joseph's Coat, Table Grace Ministries, Carol Joy Holling, Washington County Ministerial Associate, Mosaic Of Omaha, TeamMates of Blair, Men's Group, The Bridge Crisis Center, FLC Senior Lunches, FLC Youth Travel Fund, Love Days, Vacation Bible School, Tanzania Ministries, Lekura Parish, ELCA World Hunger, Bread for the World, Habitat for Humanity, Oaks Indian Center, and ELCA Disaster Relief.

What is the Christian Growth Fund?

The Christian Growth Fund is essentially an endowment fund established by FLC. The bylaws of the church direct that all undesignated gifts, regardless of amount, from estates and trusts be placed in this fund. The by-laws provide that 10% of each gift received may be distributed to a charitable or religious purpose and the remaining 90% invested. The income from those investments is then used to support the benevolent mission of FLC.

The bylaws do not allow the fund to be used for the operating budget of the church, except that a portion of the income may be used for capital improvements so long as the funds are matched from other sources.

Why are we contacting you?

The purpose of this letter is to ask each of you to consider the Christian Growth Fund ministry in your estate planning, including Wills, Trusts and even designating the Fund as a beneficiary for a portion of life insurance or retirement plans.

What do I need to do to direct a gift to the fund?

Anyone can direct a gift to the Christian Growth Fund at any time. However, historically, the Fund has primarily received gifts from individual Wills and Trusts.

How does one go about providing for a gift in estate planning documents?

A few simple steps to consider include:

1. Decide if you want to provide a gift.
2. Determine what portion of your estate you wish to gift. 10%, 25% or a specific amount.
3. Contact your attorney, financial planner, life insurance agent or retirement custodian and inform them of your intentions.
4. Please be sure to inform them that undesignated gifts to FLC and gifts specifically directed to the Fund will go to the Fund. Gifts specifically designated for such purposes as payment of church debt will NOT go to the Fund, but will instead go to the appropriate account of the church.
5. If you, your attorney or financial advisor need more information, please call the church office and they will be directed to someone who can answer questions about Christian Growth Fund and its mission.

Please prayerfully consider a gift to First Lutheran Church Christian Growth Fund.

Sincerely,

Christian Growth Fund Board
Layne Lueders
Brenda Schroeter
Mick Jensen
Mike Boeka
Carol Hartvigsen



LESSON THEMES

- Oct 5:** **Psalms (Night 2)**
Children will find comfort & understanding for their everyday lives
- Oct 12 & 19:** **Psalm 23**
Children will find comfort & hope when they are afraid, insecure, or just feeling "off"
- Oct 26 & Nov 2:** **Proverbs**
Children will hear some of the greatest wisdom for daily living

Children's Offering in October

This month, our offering will be shared with

Oaks Indian Mission

Located in Oaks, Oklahoma, Oaks the mission serves Native American children ages 7-17. These children are abused, neglected or abandoned Indian children from over 12 different tribes.

First Lutheran has had a close relationship with Oaks Indian Mission for over 120 years.



- WHEN?** Halloween Night
5-7pm
- WHO?** PreK—5th grade
- WHAT?** Games and candy
Blessing of children
- WHERE?** LIFE Center

**HAPPY
FALL!!**



Volunteer of the Month!!

Sandy Yanak
5th Grade Helper



Favorite Bible story: Jesus Feeds the 5,000

Favorite food: Steak

Favorite part of FLC: It would have to be the people. I enjoy the kids and getting to know them and their parents and building those friendships.

Favorite fall activity: I enjoy being outside and having bonfires



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

Micah 6:8



678 Service Night



Cookies and Care Pkgs for Girls Inc
Quilting
Pipe Cleanup
Veterans Day Cards



9 to 12 Field Trip!!

Celebration of Harvest @ Tri-Faith Initiative
Sunday, October 23rd
12pm—4pm

We will visit the Tri-Faith Unity Garden and Hope Orchard in Omaha. We will hear from the leaders of Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church and American Muslim Institute. Music, snacks and drinks to be enjoyed, as well!!

Please let Erika know if you would like to attend so we can arrange transportation!!

Youth Opps

9 to 12

High School Youth Group
Sundays 6:30pm-8pm

Discussion, dinner, games, & more

gers

Wednesdays 6:45pm-7:45pm
Homework, hang out, & snacks

678

Confirmation
Wednesdays 6:45pm-7:45pm

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
October 2022**



THANK YOU to ALL who are bringing garden produce to our **SUMMER GARDEN MARKET!** We invite you to continue sharing some of your wonderful fruits and vegetables **through October 15/16.** Please bring them either when you come to the Saturday evening worship service or the Sunday morning worship service, and deposit them on the Garden Cart in the narthex. The church opens at 4:00pm on Saturday afternoons. If it is more convenient for you to bring your produce earlier in the week, please deposit it in the lower left hand shelf of the refrigerator. For those of us who do not garden, this is a great opportunity to buy some home grown produce! All proceeds go to the **ELCA WORLD HUNGER.** Let us pay generously for the produce, so that others may be fed!

EQUAL EXCHANGE Products—coffee, tea, nuts, and chocolate bars—will be available every first weekend of the month. This is a wonderful opportunity to support third world farmers, so they can sell directly to consumers, providing them with a fair income that will help them care for their families and improve their communities.

Our GOD'S WORK/OUR HANDS project this fall will be preparing **Christmas Bags for Seniors** which will be distributed by the Washington County Food Pantry. This project started on **Wednesday, September 28 and the weekend of October 1st and 2nd.** Our children who attended LIFE Night classes decorated these bags on Wednesday, September 21st, and our confirmation students will be working in teams to write friendly letters which will be included in the bags for the recipients. You may either pick up a decorated bag to fill with items generated from the lists you will receive, or simply bring items from the suggestion list, or use your own creative ideas. We will be collecting items between now and October 23. We want to the Food Pantry plenty of time to catch all the folks who stop there, so we are starting early. Our goal is to prepare fifty bags. Please help us bring a little extra joy to some lonely seniors in our community!

2022 Blair Crop Hunger Walk is October 9th on 1:00 – 3:00pm Lion's Park Depot: We invite First Lutheran members to join with First United Methodist Church who is hosting this year's walk on October 9th in support of fighting hunger and poverty both here and around the globe. Unite with us as we raise funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need today and sustainable food security for tomorrow. 25% of the Walk proceeds will be directed locally to the Washington County Food Pantry.

How can you participate? REGISTER at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/blairne> You may sign up as a solo walker or form a Team. If you are unable to walk that day, select another time that is convenient for you and walk virtually. You can solicit donors to sponsor you via online and/or collect in person. Collection forms are available at the Crop display and should be turned in on Walk Day.

How can you donate? For online contributions **DONATE** at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/blairne> You may designate to a specific walker, team, or make a general donation. If you would like to make a non-online gift please provide directly to a walker or leave your check in the church office made out to **CWS** with "Blair Crop Hunger Walk" noted on the memo line by October 9th.

All are encouraged to check out the group Facebook page **Blair Crop Hunger Walk** for additional updates and more information between now and Walk Day! Blair Crop Hunger Walk | Facebook

If you need assistance with your registration or making a donation, please contact one of the following:

Lynette Jennings: 402-278-0164 Jessie Frederickson: 402-278-2232

John Mark Nielsen: 402-427-4443

Thank you for your continued support of this FLC annual event!



WOMEN'S NEWS

Newsletters for the Women of the ELCA

The Associated Church press and the Religion Communicators Council have honored Gather and Café magazines with several awards. You can read more about Gather magazine and Café (a new free online newsletter) by visiting www.womenoftheELCA.org/publications

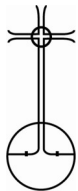


Health & School Kit Items

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

Baby Boy's socks, Boys Jacket's up to size 24 Months, Ivory Soap, Toothbrushes, Pens, Pink Erasers, and One Subject Notebooks

If you would like to donate these items you can donate by dropping off at the church office. Thank you!



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2146 WRIGHT STREET
BLAIR, NE 68008
October 2022