

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR



When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. Matthew 27:3-7

From an ending, a beginning.

From such a beginning, a sacred calling to honor all endings.

A Potter's Field is a place dedicated for the burial of unknown, marginalized, or indigent people. Many communities have such dedicated cemeteries, and communities often make provision to pay for funeral services for basic respectful treatment of people without family or others who are able to pay. For example, there is a Potter's Field in Omaha near the Mormon bridge that is more than 150 years old.

There is a Potter's field in the Blair cemetery. You might not know that, and I expect that very few have seen it. I don't know how many people are buried there; not all graves are marked, and it is likely that some of the headstones there have been lost or can no longer be identified. Some graves had wooden markers which are gone now.

Over the years it has fallen into grievous disrepair. It has become overgrown and hidden among the trees. It does not have an entrance point that is accessible. It is lost.

That should not be.

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

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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.

(Continued from Page 1)

Though the people who rest there now are mostly unknown or unremembered, it is still a sacred space. It deserves to be treated right. It would be an honor give our time and energy and resources so that it can once again be a place of dignity and grace.

On Saturday, the 6th of September, we will take the first step in this challenge. More information about the "God's Work Our Hands" day of service project is included in this newsletter and more will come in upcoming announcements and emails. It is an enormous project, and only the beginning of work that will hopefully engage the community beyond our congregation in the future as well.

First Lutheran Church has shown its commitment to serving this community, to helping our neighbors and using our gifts and leadership for the good of others. The logistics of this project are tremendous, but our spirit is tremendous as well and I know that we will realize our hopes so long as we remember the good thing that we are doing. And this project is more than a good thing - it is a Holy endeavor and a sacred act of love that we undertake.

As you think about your role in this project, both on September 6th and going forward, you should know that it will involve cutting weeds and undergrowth, removing small trees and shrubs from the area and rebuilding the entrance area, embankment and road. There will also be need for logistical support, including preparing snacks and a meal for the day. Additionally, Pastor is looking for people who might be willing to do some research into the history of the Potter's Field.

In the Order for the Dedication of a Cemetery, we pray these words: "Be with us now and bless us as we set apart this Holy Ground. As you raised up your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the first fruits of those who sleep, so also by your Spirit make us to be partakers of that new life that you have promised to those who believe, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

This project is our participation in that new life.

I think of the prayers that have been given in that space for the sake of those who were laid to rest there. Our work is a prayer to honor their lives and give out thanks to God for the gift of eternal life that is ours by his grace.

-Pastor Glen

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



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

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✠ Family of J. J. Ihrke (son of Carol Ihrke) | ✠ John Wick |
| ✠ John Davey (father of Brian Davey) - healing | ✠ Vivian Walvoord - healing & prayers |
| ✠ Marcie Ellenberger - healing | ✠ Dana - healing |
| ✠ Brooklyn Schroeter - healing | ✠ Betty Anderson |
| ✠ Carla | ✠ Gordon Soderberg - healing |
| ✠ Kari Hernandez - healing | ✠ Irene Thorsen |
| ✠ Clint Clausen - prayers | ✠ Meredith Dickerson - Alpha Gal Syndrome |
| ✠ Carleen Andersen - knee surgery | ✠ Zach - cancer healing/treatment side effects |
| ✠ Ellie Mommsen | ✠ Misty - healing and pain relief |
| ✠ Nate Preister - healing | ✠ Marilyn Svendgard |
| ✠ Pearl Rathjen | ✠ Sue Marsh - healing |
| ✠ Greg Reed | ✠ Merriebeth Ferguson (sister-in-law of Merriellen Bourn) - cancer - healing |
| ✠ Mary Frey (mother of Rhonda McMurtry) - prayers | ✠ Chris Kesling - healing |
| ✠ Carol Kuhfahl | ✠ Alex - surgery & healing |
| ✠ Sophie Kempcke | ✠ Mary LaScala |
| ✠ Wayne & Carolyn Behrend (Parents of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing | ✠ Martin Kuhr - prayers and healing |
| ✠ Jo Royuk (mother of Anne Chrans) - healing | ✠ Riley |
| ✠ Mick Jensen | ✠ Georgia (great niece of Debbie Katt) -prayers & healing |
| ✠ Marilyn Swanson—healing | ✠ Kyler Reed - healing |
| ✠ Patrick McKinnis - healing | ✠ Scott & Katie Abrams - prayers & healing |
| ✠ Amie Clausen - prayers & healing | ✠ Kay Melby (Angela Ulven and Kari Hernandez's mother) - healing |
| ✠ Sunni Wilson (mother of Melody Dubon) | ✠ Stacy Thompson Green (daughter of Marcy Bottorff) - prayers & healing |
| ✠ Julia Maettes - cancer treatments - prayers & healing | ✠ Larry Kastrup – healing |
| ✠ Elijah - healing | ✠ Leo Aguilar-Hicks – healing for Leukemia |
| ✠ Josh Foulk - healing | ✠ Lekura Parish |
| ✠ Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer | ✠ Texas Flood Victims and all those we name in our hearts. |
| ✠ Trina Kaiser - healing | |
| ✠ David Kaiser - healing | |
| ✠ Helen Garnett (Jim Garnett's mom) - healing | |
| ✠ Randy Backman - healing | |
| ✠ Deloris Matson - early stage lymphoma - healing & prayers | |

W.O.W. Meal is over for the summer! **(In House Meal)**

Starting on Wednesday, May 7th you are welcome to order meals for delivery or pick up with MWM since the W.O.W. meal will be over for the summer. Please reach out to Erika and or the church office to place your order! W.O.W. meals will resume when the fall Wednesday services start back up.

Martha Sorensen

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



celebrate!

LIFE Night Kickoff!

Please join us as we celebrate FLC's new year of worship, fellowship, and education opportunities!!

Wednesday, August 27th

- Nacho Bar @ 5:30pm
- Worship Lab @ 6:15pm

Including a "new year blessing" and presentation of Confirmation Bibles to 6th graders

- LIFE Night & Confirmation classes @ 6:45pm
- Adult Fship @ 6:45pm

(Enjoy some ice cream and adult chat-time in the Fship Hall!)

**Come join us for food, fun, and fellowship to
kickoff our new year at FLC!
And invite a friend, while you're at it!**

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.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

MWM**MID WEEK MEAL****FLC MEMBERS!!!**

Please help us spread the word!

Tell folks about this ministry!
 Tell people who may want to volunteer.
 Tell people who could use a meal.
 Tell people who help fund this ministry.

Pickup

Pickup in the east parking lot
Wednesdays 5:30-6:15pm

Delivery

Text # of meals & name to
 Erika @ 402-533-0918
Wednesdays 5:30-6:15pm

WE NEED COOKIES/BARS!!

Call Erika or click the Signup.com link in our eblasts to donate 3 dozen cookies on a Wednesday.

**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 July, August, & September. 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.

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.

**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.**

Pastor Glen will not be preaching at Good Shepherd Home in August. If you have any questions please call the church office at (402) 426-4073.

NOTES♦DATES♦REMINDERS

“God’s work. Our hands.” is Sept. 6, 2025!

In 2013, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America created a National Day of Service called “God’s Work, Our Hands” Day as an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. This has become an annual event for congregations across the church to reach out and live out their calling to serve others as Jesus served others.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

First Lutheran Church will be joining our ELCA siblings across the country in acts of love and service for our community and our neighbors. This year we are undertaking an extremely ambitious project – the recovery of the Potter’s Field at the Blair Cemetery. This will involve cutting weeds and undergrowth, removing small trees and shrubs from the area and rebuilding the entrance area, embankment and road. There will also be need for logistical support, including preparing snacks and a meal for the day. Additionally, Pastor is looking for people who might be willing to do some research into the history of the Potter’s Field.

See Pastor’s article in the August Ambassador for more information on Potter’s Field

And there are T-Shirts! You can order a special shirt to wear as part of day of service. Short-sleeve shirts are \$13, Long sleeve shirts are \$19. Orders need to be placed by August 6th in order to have the shirts for the project day. There will be sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center.



On September 6th we will begin what will surely become a long-term project which will hopefully include other churches and groups from the community in order to maintain the Potter’s Field going forward. Our prayer is that by taking this first step others in the community will join our efforts to honor and keep this sacred space.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Saved To Serve Retreat at Mosaic in Beatrice

TO LADIES OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH! Please join us August 8 to 10 weekend celebrating Martin Lutheran Home's 100th birthday! Martin Lutheran Home began in the Beatrice area and merged with Bethphage Mission in 2003 to become MOSAIC. Come and make friends with some of the 82 residents as we learn the story of the Martin Luther Society and build friendships with our sisters in Christ across Nebraska. We will be housed at the Victoria Inn and will enjoy dinner and evening entertainment courtesy of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Please come and bring a friend! Registration forms and more information sheets are available at the FLC Welcome Center and on the Women's Table in the corridor leading to the LIFE Center. Please note that the deadline for registrations is August 1 and need to be sent to Julie Reiser, NSW0 TREASURER, PO Box 64, Butte, NE 68722, together with your \$39.00 payment. Make checks payable to NSW0. We hope to see you there.

Please see list of Items that are being collected for the event. There is a basket in the Narthex for donations.



2025 Saved To Serve Opportunity Retreat Mosaic/Beatrice



Friday, August 8, 6:00 p.m. to Sunday, August 10, 1:00 p.m.

Learn about Mosaic's program and spend time with Mosaic's clients

Spend time with your Sisters in Christ, make new friends, and renew continuing friendships as we have a fun weekend in Beatrice at the Mosaic facility. Come join us to learn about Mosaic new and existing programs. Hear from individuals sharing their stories. The weekend will also include devotions, Bingo, bell ringing, sing-a-longs with Karaoke, jokes, a picnic, jewelry making, a tour of the campus, worship will be held in the Mosaic Chapel, the closing group hug, and of course, food.

Individuals, churches and women's units are encouraged to participate by collecting and bringing items for the tangible offering.

Tangible items being collected:

Large hole beads, crosses, 1/8" satin ribbon, Ty or other small stuff animals, terrycloth shower mitten, and fun pillowcases

Registered attendees will receive a letter or email with more information. For answers to retreat questions, contact Mary Mayfield, call 402-778-0291, or text 402-660-9450; or Donna Bentjen, 402-429-0745.

Saved to Served 2025 August Event Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State + Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Congregation/City _____ Conference _____

Special Needs _____

Registration Deadline: Friday, August 1, 2025

Send form and \$39.00 payment to: Julie Reiser, NSW0 Treasurer
Check payable to: NSW0
PO Box 64
Butte, NE 68722
nsw0.treasurer@gmail.com

Registration fee is transferable for one-year, not refundable

6 - April 2025

VBS 2025 Who is My Neighbor?



FLC KIDS NEWS

A note from Erika:

1st Day of School Spiritual Practices

- To mark the first day of school, paint the bottom of your child's foot.
- As they make a print on a piece of construction paper, say this blessing:

"Your feet remind us of the journey you will take this year at school. We know you will learn so many new things and go so many new places. We know you will be brave and strong and have God with you every step of the way."

- On the morning of the first day of school, say this prayer:

"God please be with (child's name) as (he/she) heads off to (his/her) first day of school. May their year be filled with new experiences and knowledge, and may (he/she) walk in light and truth every day. Amen."

August 2025

Next BIG Event:

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27TH
LIFE Night Begins!

- **NACHO BAR** @ 5:30-6:15PM
- **WORSHIP LAB** @ 6:15-6:45PM
- **PREK- 5TH CLASSES** @ 6:45-7:45PM
- **CONFIRMATION** @ 6:45-7:45PM
- **ADULT FELLOWSHIP** @ 6:45PM

ENJOY SOME ICE CREAM & ADULT CHAT TIME IN THE FSHIP HALL!! :)

Looking ahead:

AUGUST 27TH

NEW YEAR AT FLC BEGINS!!

5:30pm: Nacho Bar - Welcome Back!!
6:15pm: Worship Lab
6:45-7:45pm: Classes for PreK-5th

**Please print the
2025-26 calendar!**

AUGUST BIBLE VERSE:

This is my command-be strong & courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. **Joshua 1:9**

August 27 Offering:



We want to purchase one water filter for a village in need - this happens through ELCA World Hunger. We were able to purchase one with some of our VBS Offering this year, and now we want to use our August 27 offering to purchase another - \$50! Help us help our neighbors!



FLC YOUTH

AUGUST 2025

NEWS

Announcements

LIFE NIGHT KICKOFF!!

Wednesday, Aug 27th @ 5:30pm



Join us for dinner and fellowship before we attend Worship Lab!!

Nacho Bar, ice cream, and lots of fun in the Fship Hall!!!

WORSHIP LAB BEGINS!!

Wednesday, Aug 27th @ 6:15pm

Join us as we begin a new year of Worship Lab together!!

6th Graders will receive their Confirmation Bibles!!

We will have a blessing on our new year at school, at church, and all around!!



Confirmation Info

Wednesday, Aug 20 @ 6:15pm

Parent **AND** Student Orientation

This meeting is required for all 6th - 8th graders' families

Wednesday, Aug 27 @ 6:45pm

All classes begin

9 to 12 YG Plans



AUGUST 17TH

6-7:30PM

Tetris Tumble Tourney
Brownie Sundaes
Service Project



I can't wait to see you



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
August 2025**



Courageous Conversation – A Renewed Lutheran Church - The Social Concerns Committee will host our 6th **Courageous Conversation** on Sunday, August 24th following the 10:15 service. The topic will be a presentation and discussion of the report by the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church that has been adopted by ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Linda Timmons, CEO of MOSAIC and a member of the Commission, will be present to lead a discussion on what the implications of this report means for the ELCA and for First Lutheran Church. All congregation members are invited and encouraged to participate. We ask that those who can bring a main dish and a salad or dessert. Drinks and dinnerware will be provided.

BackPack Program - August is the month for our annual support of the **BackPack Program** - members of First Lutheran have supported this initiative for many years. 1 in 5 children in the **Food Bank's for the Heartland's** 93-county service area is at-risk for hunger. The Backpack Program, a partnership with area schools (including Blair), offers packs of weekend breakfasts and lunches to children. Each week during the school year, 8,700 packs—equaling 34,800 meals—of easy-to-prepare or ready-to-eat nutritious food are distributed to children in 237 schools in 108 school districts in Nebraska and western Iowa.

Presently Woodhouse Auto Family is matching your gift – dollar for dollar up to \$500k. The cost to sponsor one child for the academic year is \$164 but any amount is welcome. You can make an online contribution by clicking [Donate To the Backpack Program Today](#) or you can send a check directly to The Food Bank for the Heartland, 10525 J Street Omaha, NE 68127. For more information visit www.foodbankheartland.org. Thank you FLC for your continued generosity of this program!

God's Work; Our Hands - On September 6th, FLC plans to participate in the ELCA's annual, **God's Work; Our Hands**, the church-wide day of service by beginning a long-term and ambitious project to recover the Potter's Field in the Blair Cemetery. As the date approaches, information will be provided and we hope you will plan to participate in this exciting effort. There will be snacks and a meal that day for those who participate. We also invite you to consider ordering a special shirt to wear on that day, not only acknowledging "God's Work; Our Hands," but also First Lutheran Church. Short sleeve shirts are \$13; long sleeve shirts are \$19. Orders need to be placed by August 6th in order to have the shirts for the project day. There are order forms for shirts and a sign-up sheet for the day at the Welcome Center. This is an exciting project that is already generating community interest, and FLC is pleased to be providing this leadership.

CROPWalk for Hunger - Mark your calendars now – the annual CROPWalk will be held Sunday, October 19th beginning at 1:00pm. More details will be made available in the coming weeks. You may also check out the local Facebook page at **Blair Crop Hunger Walk** for future updates.

Thank You FLC - FLC received the following from The Bridge Crisis Center – "Thank you for your gift of Gift Cards, Needed Items and \$100 donation from you Annual Mother's Day In-gathering... Your donation allows us to continue providing hope, safety, and support to survivors while also working to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault in our community."



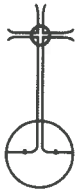
NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

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. to learn more about the minor prophets and enjoy fellowship with one another. If you have any questions about this Bible study, contact Susie Pinguoch at spinguoch@gmail.com.



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