

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

The big wooden cross that hangs over the altar in our traditional sanctuary has a light that shines brightest on the origin. (The point where the horizontal and the vertical axis meet.) I've noticed as I focused on that cross lit by its light that the farther my eye goes to the edges of the cross, the more shadows creep into view. Focusing back on the origin, the cross again shines brightly.

If we imagine that horizontal axis of the cross (the one going East and West) as our lives, and the vertical axis (going North and South) as God's inbreaking into the world, it is good to focus on that point of origin. There, --where the light is brightest--God's gracious activity enters into our reality, our lives, and creates the future God desires for me, for us, and for the entire cosmos. The bright light on our cross in the sanctuary is a reminder of God's incarnating love for us.

There is a bit of a paradox here, as the cross is a symbol of the torture and death of Jesus of Nazareth, for us the Christ of God. This symbol of death brings to mind a celebration of God's steadfast love and mercy even in the midst of death and torture. This paradox carries over into our faith itself, as we learn to live in dying, and to receive in giving. It is the mystery of God to work in such a way.

I wonder as we go forward in our ministry here at First Lutheran if such a paradox is also at work? How what we see is the opposite of what God is doing? For example, now that we livestream worship, how does God view that activity compared to people who worship in person? What's actually going on there? So many questions these days...

The hot and humid days of summer allow for the teasing of such questions, but as First Lutheran continues to minister each day it is always good to remember the origin, the bright light of our faith, and to give thanks to God for every day.

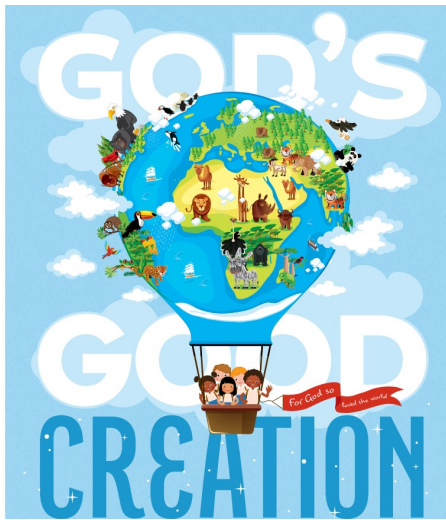
--Pastor Scott



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VBS 2022!!



JULY 11-15, 2022
Please keep us in your prayers for a fun and memorable week of VBS

Please see the Summer Worship Schedule:

Saturday at 5pm in Sanctuary

Sunday at 9:30am in LIFE Center

Sunday at 7pm in Prayer Garden



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

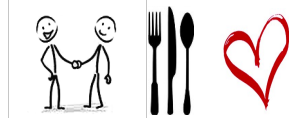
✠Terry Paulsen - prayers
 ✠Jeff Gunderson - healing
 ✠Ruth Jensen
 ✠Rod Hansen - healing = knee surgery
 ✠Alex - surgery & healing
 ✠Pat Bentsen
 ✠Carolyn (mother of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing
 ✠Wayne (father of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing
 ✠June Jensen - prayers & healing
 ✠Frank Korshoj - healing
 ✠Mary LaScala
 ✠Jenae - healing
 ✠Tim Jensen - healing
 ✠Debbie Kempcke - cancer - healing
 ✠Kenny Truhlsen
 ✠Dick Shaw
 ✠Clark Jensen - 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
 ✠Justin Roberts-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.

Baptized at our Font:

Caidyn Sherman

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**

Pickup 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

DONATE COOKIES!!

Call Erika or click this link to donate 3
dozen cookies this summer.

<https://signup.com/go/hfewWuF>

Could you help Erika?

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

SO MANY WAYS TO HELP OUR KIDS!!

PreK—5th Grade Teachers/Helpers

PreK—5th Grade Art Prep

PreK—5th Grade Classroom Prep

678 Confirmation Faith Mentors

678 Confirmation Small Group Guides

678 Record Keeping

678 Classroom Prep

Niners Adult Sponsors

Talk to Erika for more info!!

**August 4rd—6th!!**

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

Thursday, 8/4 @ 8am—6pm

Friday, 8/5 @ 8am—6pm

Saturday, 8/6 @ 8am—12pm

Come find some treasures, & bring your friends!!
Funds support 1st Lutheran Church
General Fund this year.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

FLC YOUTH to CHICAGO

July 23-27

Please pray for our group as we travel to Chicago to do service work, learn about “Privilege & Solidarity”, and have fun!!

ADULT LEADERS

Erika Cada
Mark Dickinson
Tracy Gross
Kai Kastrup
Vince Krysl
Martha Sorensen
Barb Triplett

STUDENTS

Sierra Baker
Lainey Bilau
Rylan Blattert
Eli Cada
Triston Clausen
Kyle Gross
Lexi Hilgenkamp
Ava Jenkins

McKenzie Lucas
Brynn Lundgren
Gracelyn McIntosh
Evelyn Petersen
Cady Quick
Ryleigh Schroeter
Shelby Wolff

MID WEEK MEAL THANK YOU!!

Our fundraiser thru ELCA World Hunger was a HUGE success!!

We were able to raise \$5,080, and we received a \$500 grant from ELCA World Hunger.

The total raised (\$5,580) will fund over
TEN WEEKS OF MEALS!!

THANK YOU for your generosity!!

First Lutheran
Church
Mask Policy.
Please see
message
below:

**At FLC, we
strongly
recommend
all individuals
wear
a facial mask
while inside
our building.**



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Stewardship Update:

Thank you for your generous donations! As we approach half-way through the year, here is a quick update on First Lutheran Church's financial picture. (As of May 31, 2022)

Cash available: \$102, 117

General Fund

Revenue: \$192, 138

Expenses: \$206, 800

Balance: (\$14, 662)

Building Fund loan

Balance, January 1, 2022: \$387,324

Payments (current year) \$56,234

Remaining debt: \$331,089

We understand the current economic picture is difficult for many people and families, and we are deeply thankful to God that so many have been able to donate to ministries here at First Lutheran. We continue to hold our congregation in prayer, as we go forward into the Summer and Fall months of the year. May God's blessings abound in your life.

Stewardship Team



The Children's Ministries Team thanks

MINDY RUMP

for serving as a member of our team at FLC for almost 10 years.

Mindy has given many hours of her time and expertise in helping our FLC Children's programs be successful and meaningful.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, MINDY!!
We will miss you on our team!!

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, and 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.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

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.

Family Fare Receipts

We are still taking Family Fare Receipts here at First
Lutheran Church. There is a box in the Narthex to
put the receipts in. Your receipts help FLC. When
you are

bringing your Family
Fare Receipts and putting them in
the box to donate please make sure that you are
bringing the entire receipt, not just the portion that
says Direct Your Dollars.

We actually need the entire receipt to get credit from
Spartan Nash.

Thank you very much for all of your help
and donating your Family Fare receipts.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be
closed

Monday, July 4th.
Happy 4th of July!



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



Thank You Notes

Dear First Lutheran Church,

I wanted to thank our great church family for the cards, many prayers and good wishes over the last couple of months, They were certainly appreciated more than you know.

Pat Hansen



Dear First Lutheran Church,

Oh What Joy!

Thank you for the beautiful rose I received for my birthday and the nice visit with Rod Hansen.

The poinsettia I received from you at Christmas is planted in Good Shepherd's Gazebo flower bed.

Thank you ever so much.

God's Blessings for your kindness.

Betty Wolsmann

Thank you so much for the beautiful pink rose which Rod Hansen delivered to me for my birthday. Also, thank you Sunday School children for the pretty cross.

Thank you again,
Louise Mencke





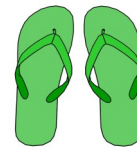
LIFE Night 2022-23

Worship Lab begins August 10th
LIFE Night Classes begin August 24th
Watch your email for reg link!!

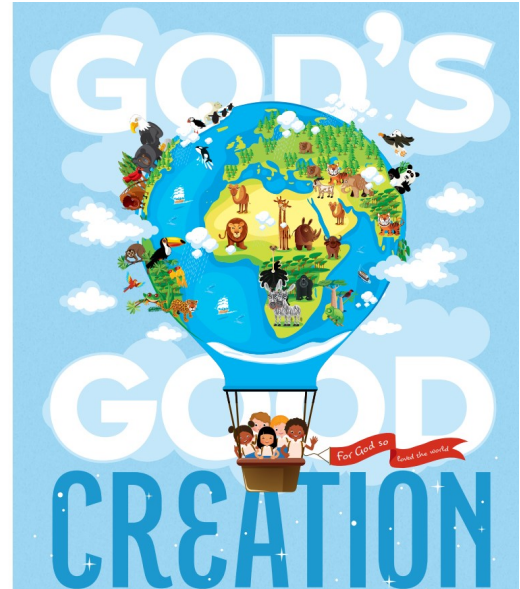


Summer worship

Saturday @ 5pm in Sanctuary
Sunday @ 9:30am in LIFE Center
Sunday @ 7pm in Prayer Garden



VBS 2022



July 11-15, 2022

Go to www.firstlutheranblair.org
to register on our Google Form!!

Please register your kids as soon as possible
to help us plan. Invite your friends!!

FLC YOUTH
News!!



VBS 2022



*Do you love little kids?
Join us for VBS! Bring a friend!
Contact Erika if you'd like to help out!*
July 11-15 @ 9am -12pm

Chicago Trip Meeting

July 7th @ 7pm

Dinner
Mission Trip Devotions
Final Notes

REQUIRED for participants
Parents may attend—not required.

678 Confirmation

**Register on
Google Form!**

A letter was sent on June 20th
An email was sent on June 17th
Please sign up so we can begin planning!!

Summer worship

Saturday @ 5pm in Sanctuary
Sunday @ 9:30am in LIFE Center
Sunday @ 7pm in Prayer Garden

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

Micah 6:8

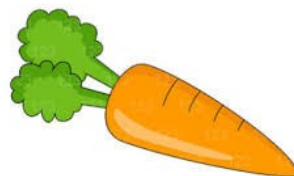


To Serve As Jesus Served... *projects and events of the church, the community, and the world reported monthly by the FLC Social Concerns Committee.*

**FLC AMBASSADOR
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
July 2022**

THANK YOU to ALL who took the time to write or sign letters to our senators and representative during our annual **“BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS”** event on **June 4 and 5** regarding the re-authorization of the **Farm Bill in 2023**. As you may know, the **Farm Bill** includes much more than farm policies and programs. It also authorizes spending for nutrition programs, thus enabling millions of people across the country to put food on their tables! We are happy to report that **62** signed letters of advocacy were sent to Representative Adrian Smith; **61** were sent to Senator Ben Sasse; and **61** were sent to Senator Deb Fischer from church. Thirteen letter packets were taken home to sign which means that, if they were signed and mailed, the number of letters sent to Adrian Smith would be **75**, and the numbers sent to our two senators each would be **74**! Your advocacy will very likely have a positive impact on the way our Nebraska members of Congress will vote! **Thank you again!**

Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26 worship services will include a **“Blessing of the First Fruits”** ceremony, as we open our **SUMMER GARDEN MARKET!** Gardeners, we know you have been busy planting, and we invite you to share some of your wonderful produce. You may bring it to church and deposit it on the garden cart in the narthex any time on Friday, or on Saturday afternoon, or when you come to worship on either Saturday evening or Sunday morning. Although the church office will not be staffed on Friday afternoon or on Saturday, it will still be open. For those of us who do not garden, this is a great opportunity to buy some home grown produce! All proceeds will go to **ELCA World Hunger**. **Let us pay generously for the produce we buy, so that others may be fed!**



EQUAL EXCHANGE Products—coffee, tea, nuts and chocolate bars—will again be available for purchase at our Saturday night worship service on Saturday, July 2, and at the Sunday morning worship service on July 3. These products will be available every first weekend of the month. What a wonderful way this is 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!

FLC SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS! Come join a busy team that works to help others in the community and around the globe, and who truly desire to “Serve as Jesus Served.” If that sounds like you, please contact Lynette Jennings (402-278-0164), John Mark Nelsen (402-427-4443), Jim Peterson (402-436-2716) or Trudy Hutton (402-426-4358)—or just come to our next meeting on **Monday, July 18, 7:00 P.M. in the church library.**



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

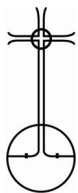


Health & School Kit Items

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

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
July 2022