

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

School's out!

Are those not the sweetest words a child can hear? There is no substitute for summer vacation, even for those who love school. There is no harder lesson of adulthood than to face the reality that there are no summer breaks anymore.

It seems like people have been talking forever about year-round school, and while the calendar is much different from when I was a child, summer vacation still comes. That's fine. Maybe it's a good thing even. I'm less worried about losing summer school break than I am about losing school altogether. And I actually worry about that more than I should have to.

Public education exists, in great part, because of the Lutheran Reformation. In Luther's time, education was a privilege reserved for those few who could afford it. Schools were run by the church, primary for the purpose of creating priests and teaching canon law. Monks and Nuns learned to read and write. The rest of the populace was on its own, and illiteracy and ignorance reigned.

And the Gospel was lost.

In 1524 Luther wrote the treatise To The Councilmen Of All Cities In Germany That They Establish And Maintain Christian Schools to remind the leaders of society of their responsibility to provide schooling for all children. "A city's best and greatest welfare, safety, and strength consist rather in its having many able, learned, wise, honorable, and well-educated citizens." For Luther, education was not an option – it was a necessity, not for the sake of children, but for the sake of the world. Such an important work could not be left to chance or up to families that may or may not have the capability to fully educate their children.

It must not be lost on us that while Luther stressed the importance of teaching biblical and godly virtues (especially at home!) he also said children should study, "languages and history, but also singing and music together with the whole of mathematics." He stressed the importance of libraries: "No effort or expense should be spared to provide good libraries or book repositories, especially in the larger cities which can well afford it."

Luther believed in educated children. Do we?

I think our approach to raising and educating children today would earn us a well-deserved rant from Luther, because we have privatized and neglected that most important gift and treasure of God: "Your children are not so wholly yours that you need give nothing of them to God. He too will have what is rightfully his—and they are more his than yours!" (A Sermon On Keeping Children In School)

The great Reformation principle *The Priesthood of All Believers* was not merely an invitation to throw off the tyranny of a church that suppressed inquiry and discourse. It was a call to a shared responsibility for all who live in the Kingdom of God in this world to lead right and good lives that contribute to the common welfare. Luther believed that the world had shirked its holy duty to the detriment of the faith.

Inside this issue:

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



June 15, 2025

(Continued from Page 1)

Let us not return to those dark days.

The 16th century was a complicated time. The Renaissance was reinventing art and literature, there were new scientific discoveries and technologies (e.g. the printing press). Columbus sailed to the West and proved that the earth was actually round and there were other lands and people too. The time demanded enlightened and engaged people in order to survive, let alone thrive. Now we stand in the midst of our own challenges, and shall we neglect our responsibilities and let darkness rule? Or shall we rekindle our faith and work together to fulfill the promise in which we were created?

School is never out.

-Pastor Glen



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 Pinquoch at spinquoch@gmail.com.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



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



†Family of Roland Rasmussen
 †Family of Dick Hansen
 †Family of Anne Keenan
 †Clint Clausen - prayers
 †Carleen Andersen - knee surgery
 †Ellie Mommsen
 †Nate Preister - healing
 †Pearl Rathjen
 †Kari Hernandez - healing
 †Greg Reed - quick & safe recovery from surgery
 †Mary Frey (mother of Rhonda McMurtry) - prayers
 †Carol Kuhfahl
 †Sophie Kempcke
 †Wayne & Carolyn Behrend (Parents of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing
 †Jo Royuk (mother of Anne Chrans) - healing
 †Mick Jensen
 †Marilyn Swanson—healing
 †Jase Hemminger (grandson of Dennis & Angie Hemminger) - cancer - prayers
 †Patrick McKinnis - healing
 †Angela Ulven - healing
 †Amie Clausen - prayers & healing
 †Sunni Wilson (mother of Melody Dubon)
 †J. J. Ihrke & Family (son of Carol Ihrke) - battling ALS
 †Julia Maettes - cancer treatments - prayers & healing
 †Elijah - healing
 †Josh Foulk - healing
 †Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer
 †Trina Kaiser - healing
 †David Kaiser - healing
 †Helen Garnett (Jim Garnett's mom) - healing

†Randy Backman - healing
 †Deloris Matson - early stage lymphoma - healing & prayers
 †John Wick
 †Vivian Walvoord - healing & prayers
 †Dana - healing
 †Betty Anderson
 †Gordon Soderberg - healing
 †Irene Thorsen
 †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
 †Stacy Thompson Green (daughter of Marcy Bottorff) - prayers & healing
 †Larry Kastrup – healing
 †Leo Aguilar-Hicks – healing for Leukemia
 †Lekura Parish
 †Tornado Victims and all those we name in our hearts.

**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.**

**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 April,
May, and June. 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



FLC Youth Garage Sale!! **June 12th—14th!!**

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

Thursday, 6/12 @ 8am—6pm

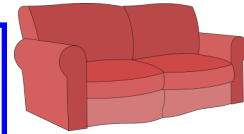
Friday, 6/13 @ 8am—6pm

Saturday, 6/14 @ 8am—12pm

No pricing! Donations encouraged!

Funds support FLC Youth

Come find some treasures, & bring your friends!!



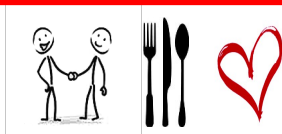
To volunteer at the sale, contact Erika!!

Setup: June 8-11 @ any time during the day—bringing up items and organizing/displaying

Manning the Sale: June 12-14 @ 8am-6pm (restocking, greeting customers, tidying shelves)

Cleanup: June 14 @ 11am-3pm? (packing leftovers, tearing down etc.)

MWM



Mid Week Meal Grant!

We were recently blessed with a grant for \$8,500 from the Immanuel Vision Foundation to help fund our Mid Week Meal.

Many thanks to Immanuel for helping us continue serving our neighbors!!

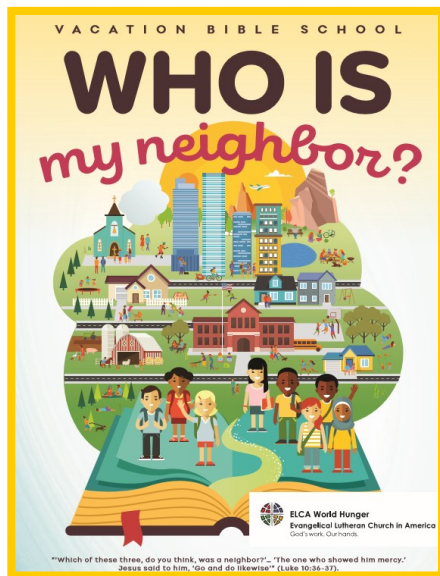
W.O.W. Meal is over for the summer! **(In House Meal)**

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



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



Mark your calendars!!

July 14th–18th

9am—12pm

Lunch following for all!!

- Can you help? Contact Erika!!
- Register at FLC website or with this QR code:

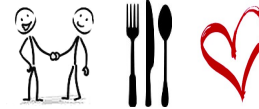


**Contact Erika with questions
402-533-0918**



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

**PLEASE CONSIDER STEPPING
UP TO HELP THIS MINISTRY!**

We have folks who have been driving
delivery routes for **FIVE YEARS**. And
they're ready for a break.

So I need HELP!!

**Please contact me if you're able to step
up and serve your neighbor.**

Please contact Erika if you can volunteer!!
All times are flexible—weekly, biweekly,
monthly, whenever it fits into your
schedule!

*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

THANK YOU!!

For your love, your time, and your dedication to our youth!!

Our 2024-25 Children's and Youth Ministries Volunteers:

Brett & Brittney Gunderson	Loren Havekost
Sara Foulk	Kari Loseke
Teresa Preister	Ruth Peterson
Joni Clements	Lynette Jennings
Jolyn Stratman	Jeff & Cindy Smith
Molly Stirek	Hannah Grace
Ashley Rasmussen	Sandy Yanak
Emily Petersen	Abby Leggott
Laura Pike	Ruby Petersen
Sara Lierman	Kelly Leslie
Jodi Cunard	Nicole Sok
Megan Starzyk	Maddie & Sophie Kempcke
Misty Filows	Ryleigh Schroeter
Amanda Nemechek	Sidney & Lindsey Moeller
Anne Chrans	Lainey Bilau
Rachel Hambidge	Nicki Wendt
Nikki Mann	Maelie Nelson
Jamie Christensen	Kennedy Hilgenkamp
Randy & Ruth Petersen	Maren Thompson
Jim & Heidi Garnett	Nadia Davey
Mark & Kay Dickinson	Judy Brehm
Rich & Pat Jorgensen	Melody Dubon
Martha Sorensen	Sarah Parks
Laurie Wick	Judy Thompson
Ann Kobs	Barb Triplett

If I missed you, please let me know!! My brain doesn't always function at 100%, but that does NOT mean I don't appreciate each of you!!



Thank You Notes

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the lovely Easter lily and wonderful church service that I watched online. I am so grateful to belong to this generous, talented and caring church community.

-Patti Nielsen

FLC KIDS NEWS

A note from Erika:

VBS 2025!! **Who is my Neighbor?**

- **WHEN:** July 14 -18 @ 9am-12pm
- **WHO:** 3 yr old - 5th grade (grade finished)
- **COST:** \$10/child suggested donation
\$30 max/family
If this fee is burdensome, please contact us.
- **LUNCH:** Lunch served for all families at 12pm each day - free will donation
- **REGISTER:** Google doc link at www.firstlutheranblair.org or Facebook

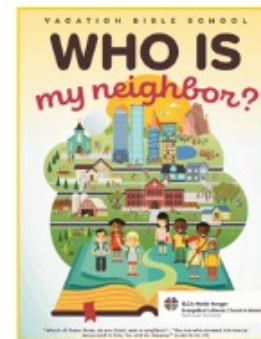
Use this QR Code to register!!



June 2025

Next BIG Event:

VBS 2025



Looking ahead:

JUNE 12TH-14TH

FLC Youth Garage Sale!!

Thur & Fri 8am -6pm & Sat 8am-12pm

JULY 14TH-18TH

VBS @ FLC!!

Mon-Fri 9am-12pm with lunch following

Summer Offering:

WASHINGTON COUNTY
FOOD PANTRY
Celebrating 20 years!

Please consider making a weekly or monthly donation to our local food pantry this summer! You can drop it at the pantry OR you can drop it at church and we'll deliver for you! There is a box right inside the Narthex. Help your kids help their neighbors this summer!

JUNE BIBLE VERSE:

God is not a God of confusion but a God of peace.

1 Corinthians 14:33

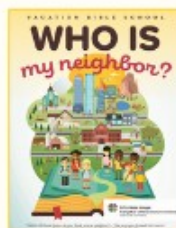
FLC YOUTH

NEWS JUNE 2025



Announcements

Help at VBS 2025



July 14-18 @ 9am-12pm

Could you be a helper?
Snacks, Outdoor Games, and others
Contact Erika!!

LIFE Night Help!!

Do you love little kids?
We need helpers on Wednesday
nights this fall!!



Contact Erika for more info!!

New 9 to 12 Event Coming!!

9 to 12 YG on Wednesdays this fall!
We will attend worship at 6:15pm
and/or then meet in the Yth Room at
6:45-8pm each Wednesday
All high schoolers are welcome!

Fundraisers

GARAGE SALE!!

SETUP:

June 8 @ 3pm
June 9 - 11 anytime 9am-4pm

SALE:

June 12 @ 8a - 6p
June 13 @ 8a - 6p
June 14 @ 8a - 12p

CONTACT ERIKA IF...

**you could help setup our sale
&/OR**

you could help staff our sale!!!
(A great "Service Opportunity" for
Confirmation/National Honor Society, etc.!!)

9 to 12 YG Plans

June 22nd

Mini Golfing & Dinner!!

Meet @ Fship Hall @ 3:30pm

Please let Erika know if you want to
attend so we have enough rides.

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
June 2025**

June will be a busy month for events sponsored by the Social Concerns Committee.



Bread for the World (June 14th and 15th) – FLC is a Covenant Congregation of Bread for the World, a nondenominational Christian organization, founded by Dana College alumnus, Art Simon. BFW does research and proposes policies to Congress to address hunger, locally, nationally and globally.

Before and after services on the weekend of June 14th and 15th, congregation members are invited to sign letters to our representatives in Congress, specifically encouraging them to fully fund the domestic Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Members may also either take copies for signing at home or write letters of their own.

TeamMates (June 21st and 22nd) – Local representatives of TeamMates, the mentoring program for 3rd to 12th graders Coach Tom Osborne and his wife, Nancy, will present information at each service. Their hope is to interest individuals in volunteering to become mentors.

First Fruits/Garden Market (June 28th and 29th) – At services on the weekend of June 28th and 29th there will be an acknowledgement of “First Fruits.” Our Garden Market Cart will be placed in the Welcome Center and members are invited to bring produce from their gardens for sharing. There will be a box for donations, and the money that is collected will go to ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Before that weekend, members may bring garden produce and place it on the Welcome Center.

Also Remember – Our Mother’s Day Ingathering for The Bridge Crisis Center ends on Sunday, June 1st. Please consider bringing items to the church through services on June 1st. *The Bridge Crisis Center* is a local organization providing 24/7 crisis support, emergency shelter and advocacy for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Bridge is committed to providing survivors with the resources they need to heal and rebuild. Your support is essential in making this possible. Here’s a list of urgent needs that can help make a tangible difference:

Used Cellphones	Gas Gift Cards	Fast Food Gift Cards	Stamps
Security Cameras (Ring Doorbells, Hunting Cameras, etc.)			Toilet Paper
Liquid Hand Soap	Dish Soap	Laundry Soap	Tracphones and Minutes

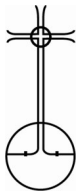


NOTES♦DATES♦REMINDERS

Special Synod-wide worship service!
Sunday, June 1st at 10:00AM!

The Nebraska Synod assembly will take place May 30th through June 1st of this year. Like last year, there will be a special worship service on Sunday morning and every congregation across the state is invited to share together. That service will take place at 10:00AM. It will be the **ONLY** worship service at First Lutheran that weekend. There will be **NO** Saturday night service or 8:15AM service on Sunday morning. Bishop Scott Johnson will be preaching and there will be wonderful music and a chance for us to join in with our Lutheran brothers and sisters across the state. Mark you calendars now for this special event. **To celebrate this special morning come and join in for coffee and fellowship hour before the service, beginning at 9:00 am.**

Reminder: Pastor Glen will be preaching at Good Shepherd Home on Sunday, June 8th at 1:00pm. 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.



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