

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Luke 10:2)

I love this time of year.

Not necessarily just because it's fall. Not the weather, or the football, or especially the pumpkin spice, well, everything. The reason I love this time of year is the harvest.

There is something about the sight of the fields in the autumn sun, the crops ready to be gathered, that I find uplifting. It is a time of great optimism. The fruits of months of hard labor are about to be realized. There is a sense of abundance that fills the heart, a feeling of good will and plenty that is both comforting and thrilling. Everything is going to be ok.

That is good.

Too often our hearts are dominated by a foreboding sense of scarcity, a mindset of poverty. Creatures born in sin, we live in constant fear for what we do not have, certain that ruin and loss are our only future. The devil whispers in our ear words of despair and hopelessness and blame. And we believe it. Boy, do we believe it.

But the harvest is plentiful ...

What does it take to clear our eyes and see the truth all around us? The fields are full and waiting, the future is at hand and it is abundant and filled with grace and hope and life. The world is open and ready and the time is now.

Thanks be to God!

That is the answer, that is the way. To see the world through grateful eyes, to be glad for what we have and know the blessings of life – of daily life – is the great gift of faith. And here is the transformative power of faith: gratitude is not a reaction, it is a posture, a way of seeing and a way of being. We are not merely thankful when blessings come our way. We are the blessing for which the world is waiting. There is much good around us. Let us not fail to be thankful for it.

First, please know that we are thankful for YOU. For the blessing that you are, for the good things you do and the time and treasure you share. For your faithfulness and the goodwill you bring into this community. First Lutheran is the total of all of the gifts that are shared here, and each one is important and needful.

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

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Communion Update:

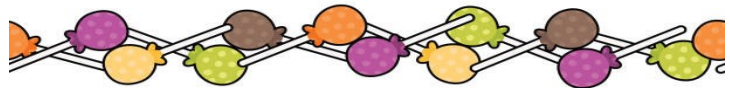
Thank you for helping with this accommodation for Pastor Glen: because it is difficult for Pastor to bring communion to members in the pews, if you find it physically difficult to come forward during communion, we invite you to pick up the communion elements as you come into the Sanctuary and receive them during the communion liturgy when the Pastor indicates.

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Secondly we are grateful for all that God is doing at FLC. And it is a lot. This fall we will paint a picture of all of the good ministry that happens here so that everyone can see and join in the chorus of praise. From mid-week meals to children's programs to a full range of music groups to care programs for members in need and on and on and on. Meaningful ministry happens every day here at First. To see it is to be reminded that God is indeed active and at work in our world. And that is something to be grateful for indeed.

Jesus sends his disciples out into the world with this promise: the harvest is plentiful. It is not a demand nor a challenge – it is an encouragement, a word of hope. There is joy all around us, and this is our moment. The season is here now. Let us go forward singing our songs of thanksgiving and praise!

-Pastor Glen



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!!

Reminder: Pastor Glen will be preaching at Good Shepherd Home on the 1st Sunday of each month. 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.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Pastor Glen Celebrates Thirty Year in the Ministry

Pastor Glen Thomas, First Lutheran Church's Transitional Minister, is being honored by the Nebraska Synod for his thirty-year anniversary of ordination. He will be recognized by the Synod on Monday evening, October 23rd during the Partners in Ministry Banquet to be held as part of the Fall Leadership Gathering at Younes Holiday Inn Conference Center in Kearney.

We at First Lutheran will also be honoring Pastor Glen for this outstanding achievement. On Sunday, October 29th between the 8:15am service and the 10:15am service, the Church Council will be hosting a reception for Pastor Glen and his wife in the Fellowship Hall. We would like to invite all members of First Lutheran to come and have refreshments while honoring our Pastor for this mile stone in his life.

As our Transitional Minister, Pastor Glen has been on the job for eight months. During those months, he has been instrumental in helping First Lutheran move forward with our mission. He has been a rock for us during a very difficult time of transition. Please take this time to honor Pastor Glen by your presence at this reception.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to thank and recognize him, please consider sending letters or cards to him prior to the reception. He would certainly appreciate such a kindness.



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
 ✠Family of Debbie Kempcke
 ✠Family of Jerry Christensen
 ✠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
 ✠Betty Wolsmann - evaluation & healing
 ✠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!!

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.



Choir News

Could the Spirit be calling you to add your voice to the choir? If so, we can promise with great certainty: You will feel welcome, comfortable, and involved. The choir began rehearsals on Tuesday, September 5th at 6:30 pm in the choir room (take the elevator to the second floor and turn left). Regular attendance is encouraged but don't be discouraged if you can't make it each week. You are welcome to join as often as you can. For more information and questions, contact Vince at VKrysl@firstlutheranblair.org
Come, join us in making a joyful noise!

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.*



FLU SHOTS

Sunday, October 15th

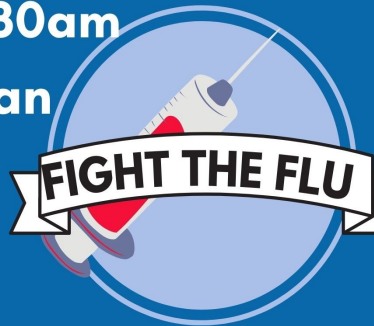
7:30am - 11:30am

First Lutheran

Church
Blair



**BRING A COPY OF YOUR
INSURANCE CARD IF YOU WOULD
LIKE TO BILL TO INSURANCE.
Out of Pocket Cost: \$35**



Guest Speaker



WHEN? Wednesday, Oct 18th
Worship @ 6:15pm
Presentation @ 6:45pm
WHO? 6th grade thru Adults

The ***Set Me Free Project*** provides
prevention education about
Human Trafficking—recognizing
there is intrinsic value in every
human being

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Special Event for Seniors

You are invited to a Special Event sponsored by the FLC Care Ministry. Senior Solutions is a program of the Memorial Community Hospital and Health System that serves our community by helping seniors cope with the changes of life often associated with aging. Their programs aid seniors dealing with a variety of problems and provide support to those who love and care for them. If you are facing difficulties in your life or if you are caring for someone who is, join us on Thursday, October 19th at 10:00 am. You will find the time very informative and helpful! Refreshments will be provided.

SAVE THE DATE!

November 18, 2023, is the annual craft fair sponsored by the church women at First Lutheran. Vendors and shoppers are needed. Bring your Christmas wish list! For more information, contact Rhonda McMurtry, 402-427-3341.



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 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 Address for Arlan and Mary Ann Hansen

Arlan and Mary Ann Hansen have moved to Minnesota. They are doing well and settling in at their new apartment. If anyone from FLC would like to send them a note to say hello, they would love that. Their address is:
Arlan & Mary Ann Hansen
13439 185th Lane NW
Elk River, MN 55330



WHEN? Halloween Night
5-7pm

WHO? PreK—5th grade

WHAT? Games and candy
Blessing of children

WHERE? LIFE Center

LESSON THEMES

Sept 27 & Oct 4: **Jesus Tempted in the Desert**
Jesus was tempted and so are we. We must be alert and know Jesus understands.

Oct 11 & 18: **Jesus Multiplies Loaves**
God is able to provide for us even when it looks impossible. We follow Jesus and believe God can provide.

Oct 25 & Nov 1: **Jesus Walks on Water**
God is in control even in the storms of life. When we're overwhelmed, we look to Jesus.

FLC KIDS SING

Worship Lab & Good Shepherd!!

Wednesday, Oct 11th @ 6pm

Sanctuary at 6pm for practice
The children will go straight to Good Shepherd after they sing at Worship Lab. We'll sing and then return to Worship Lab and Opening.



Children's Offering in October

This month, our offering will be shared with
Feed My Starving Children

Feed My Starving Children feeds God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. Donations fund the MannaPack ingredients (meals designed to reduce malnutrition) and volunteers hand-pack the meals. Meals are distributed throughout the world, feeding children and saving lives. Over 90% of donations are directed toward feeding kids in need.





**CREATED
TO BE**

New Orleans (NOYG)
Team Bonding #2

October 8th @ 5pm
Tacos and drinks

Created to be **BRAVE**
Bravery & Vulnerability

REQUIRED for ALL participants!!

Guest Speaker



WHEN? Wednesday, Oct 18th
Worship @ 6:15pm
Presentation @ 6:45pm
WHO? 6th grade thru Adults

The **Set Me Free Project** provides prevention education about Human Trafficking—recognizing there is intrinsic value in every human being

Youth Opps

9 to 12

High School Youth Group
Sundays 6-7:30pm

Discussion, dinner, games, & more
NO MTG 10/8 or 10/15

9ers

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

678

Confirmation
Wednesdays 6:45pm-7:45pm

9 to 12 Youth Group

Sunday nights @ 6pm
No meeting on 10/8 or 10/15

This month we will paint pumpkins, play 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
October 2023**

THANK YOU to ALL who are bringing garden produce or flowers to our **SUMMER GARDEN MARKET**. Products may be brought to the church and placed on the Garden Cart any time the church is open--preferably prior to 3:00 P.M. on Fridays and between 4:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. on Saturdays, or even when you come to the worship service which you are attending. **And THANK YOU ALSO to ALL** who do not garden but who purchase these homegrown fruits, vegetables, and flowers. All proceeds will go to **ELCA WORLD HUNGER**. Therefore let us pay generously for the products we buy so that others may be fed! The **Garden Market** will remain open as long as there is produce being brought.

THANK YOU to ALL who showed up at the **Washington County Recycling Center on August 26** to do the necessary work for **FLC'S** turn to staff this worthy community project. Thanks to your willingness we had plenty of workers! And a **huge thank you goes to all FLC members who staff the Recycling Center every week!**

Our GOD'S WORK/OUR HANDS project, namely doing "**random acts of kindness**" for others and placing a paper heart describing that act on the rolling chalk board in the narthex will continue through October 1. It is wonderful to see so many hearts appearing on the chalk board! We encourage everyone to do and post at least one **random act of kindness** during the month, and hope that many of us will do these acts often. They might even become "habit forming"! If you prefer, you may also submit a photo of the act and either place it on the rolling chalk board or post it on the **FLC Facebook page**. What a wonderful opportunity this is to give a "lift" or bring some joy to someone you know or don't know! As Angela Khabeb wrote in the "**Living Lutheran**," July/August issue, "Please know that doing God's work with our hands is more than simple acts of kindness. Rather, in some small way, it's a sign of God's real presence in the World."

Our 2023 BLAIR CROP HUNGER WALK sponsored by Church World Service will take place on **Sunday, October 8, gathering at FLC around 12:30 P.M. and leaving the church at 1:00 P.M.** We will be joined by our friends from **First United Methodist Church** to support fighting hunger both here and around the world. We will join together as a group to walk either a 5k or 3K route in Blair, and we will return to FLC where we will enjoy some treats. However, if you are unable to make it the day of the Walk we encourage you to walk on your own. The work of Church World Service (CWS) and our local hunger agencies continues, and with the increased need for food in many parts of the world, raising money for vulnerable people is more needed than ever! Twenty-five percent of the Walk proceeds will be directed to the **Washington County Food Pantry in Blair**. Please plan to participate--either by walking or by supporting walkers financially.

How can you participate? You will receive informational flyers with detailed information when you come to worship services this coming Saturday, September 23 at 5:00 P.M., Sunday, September 24 at 8:15 or 10:15 A.M., and/or Wednesday, September 27 at 7:00 P.M. These flyers will also have a **Donor Tracking Form** on the back so that you can keep track of both your donors online and your "in person" contributions. To collect online you need to click on **Register** at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/blairne>. You may sign up as a solo walker or form a team. Donations can be solicited through an online campaign and/or by asking your friends and family to make a contribution with cash or check made to **CWS**. All funds collected should be brought with you and turned in on the day of the Walk.

(Social Concerns Committee Article Continued on Page 10)

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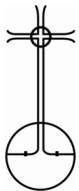
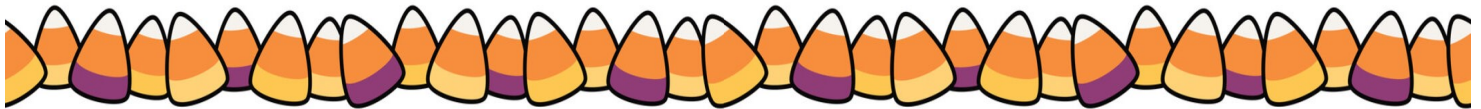
How can you donate? For online contributions visit <https://www.hungerwalk.org/blairne>. Click on **DONATE**. You may contribute to a specific walker, team, or make a general donation. You may also give a contribution directly to a walker or leave a check in the church office. Checks can be made out to **CWS** with **Blair Crop Hunger Walk** noted on the memo line. Representatives will be available to collect your donations after worship services at the **CROP** table in the narthex over the next several weeks. If you did not happen to receive the informational flyer on September 23, 24, or 27, they will still be available at the **CROP** table in the narthex after subsequent worship

Services. All walkers and donors are encouraged to join the group Facebook **page Blair CROP Hunger Walk** for additional updates and more information between now and the Walk Day!

If you need help with your registration or making a donation, please contact one of the following and we can assist:

John Mark Nielsen: 402-427-4443 Pastor Glen: 402-426-4073 Lynette Jennings: 402-278-0164

Thank you for your continued support of this annual event.



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