

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

The other day I had the opportunity to take a little drive northward on Hwy. 75. It was a lovely, bright, sunny late September day. And I was struck by the colors in the fields around me (even though I am pretty colorblind), the golden hues of the crops as they transformed in preparation for the upcoming harvest. It's an amazing little moment that happens every year at this time as the bright green of summer fades away to make space for what is next.

I find myself stopping to pause in this moment, taking in this scene to enjoy the lovely colors of fall as it emerges and consider the underlying truth it signals. Everything is about to change. Everything is about to end.

That is a gloomy thought I know. But it offers a perspective as we deal with all of the changes that are so much a part of our life. Shouldn't we be used to it by now?

Change is the single constant of our existence. The only thing more certain than change is our resistance to it. As if that resistance mattered. As if we could stop change from happening. But in our hearts we know that we can't, and this season, this much beloved time of year, is an annual reminder that everything in this world is impermanent. Our attachment to this world and its ways is the millstone and the burden that makes the journey of faith all the more difficult.

And Jesus says, "Repent." Stop where you are, drop everything, set your face and your heart in a new direction. And go. He is not interested in our guilt or our depressing clinging to what was, because he knows we will never grow, never realize the fullness of the Kingdom of God as long as we are anchored to the past.

The Israelite slaves, newly freed from generations of bondage and harsh servitude, immediately complained about change. They made a Golden Calf to worship because they could not grasp the presence of the God right in front of them. They complained about the lack of water, of food, of meat, of leadership. They pretended to long for their old life in Egypt, lying about how good the past had been.

The author Nancy Isenberg, narrating the powerful and harsh reaction to the integration of public schools in Little Rock Arkansas in 1960, used the phrase, "Only capable of replicating the life into which she was born" to describe the struggle of those who could not accept that radical change. It's not just that we cling to what we know, even if and when what we know is wrong or broken. It's that we are incapable of even imagining anything different, let alone moving toward that new future, to the point where all we can do is stay the same, no matter how hopeless it is. It becomes impossible to change, even when we want to. Even when we must. Our certainty is our prison. And there is only one way out.

The Cross.

It is not as if God does not know our brokenness. It is not as if God does not know how hard it is for us to let go of the burdens that we bear. He knows that by ourselves we are not capable of moving forward, no matter how wondrous the harvest that lies ahead. But fear not – he has set us on the way.

(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)

Seasons are only that – they are passages to what is next. Fall leads to harvest which leads to a time of winter where we await the oncoming Spring. Daily all things pass on so that they can become new. We might hold on with all of our power to what is and what was but it is for naught – what is old must and will pass and things will change. We are fools to deny it, we suffer to resist it, we are exposed by grace in it.

So let us be now in this season of fall. Let us discover the deep beauty of it, the amazing wonder of change around us and within us. May we never cease to be amazed by the God of endings and beginnings, by the God who takes what was and makes all things new.

-Pastor Glen

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.



- WHEN?** Halloween Night @ 5-6:30pm
- WHO?** PreK—5th graders
- WHAT?** Games and candy
Blessing of Trick or Treaters
- WHERE?** LIFE Center

To donate candy, contact Erika!!

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>✠Family of LaDona Warren
 ✠Family of Clark Jensen
 ✠Family of Randy Plugge
 ✠Family of Ruth Ann McCormick
 ✠Family of Rod Hansen
 ✠Family of Louise Mencke
 ✠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
 ✠Bev Homes - comfort
 ✠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
 ✠Clint Clausen - prayers
 ✠Mike Boeka - prayers for healing
 ✠Deloris Matson - early stage lymphoma - healing & prayers
 ✠John Wick
 ✠Vivian Walvoord - healing & prayers
 ✠Keith Matzen & family - prayers
 ✠Dana - healing
 ✠Betty Anderson
 ✠Wayne (father of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing</p> | <p>✠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
 ✠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
 ✠SSGT Miley Alvarez - Deployment
 ✠SSGT Rachael Moore & grandma - Deployment - pray to keep her safe and also pray that grandma is well
 ✠Tornado Victims and all those we name in our hearts.</p> |
|---|--|

THANK YOU!!



The Mid Week Meal Ministry is very excited to have 2 brand new ovens and a new range in the FLC Kitchen!

We bake 14-16 casseroles every single Wednesday (for almost 5 years now!), and our ovens were wearing out.

Thank you to Washington County Community Foundation, FLC Women, and various FLC gifts and memorials for providing funding for this much needed project!

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!!

**Tri - Faith Initiative
Guest Speakers!!**

October 30th @ 6:45pm in LIFE Center

*Please join us to hear more about the Tri-Faith Initiative and the
Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faiths!*

Rev. Sarah Rentzel-Jones, Countryside Community Church
Abdul Mackie, American Muslim Institute
Ilene Arnold, Temple Israel



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

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.

FLU SHOTS



Sunday 10/13/2024

7:30 am - 11:30 am

First
Lutheran
Church -
Blair



BRING A COPY OF YOUR INSURANCE
CARD IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BILL TO
INSURANCE.

Out of Pocket Cost : \$45

Choir News

Choir rehearsals have started up again on Tuesdays!

We are always looking for new members to join us!

The choir rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 6:30pm 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

The Christian Growth Board would like to remind members of FLC to consider including the Christian Growth Fund in your estate planning.



Thank You Notes

Tornado Relief 2024

First Lutheran Church,

On behalf of our family we want to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous donations. Your support has significantly aided our rebuilding process. Your willingness to step up and assist during this challenging time, speaks volumes about our congregation.

It's incredibly difficult to ask for help when you need it most, but our congregation's proactive generosity has provided us with much needed help and relief. As we rebuild our lives, we will keep the congregation updated. God is good and your actions are a testament to his love and grace.

With heartfelt appreciation,
David, Stacy, Aidan and Chase Olsen

First Lutheran Church,

God bless you all! Thank you with blessing Good Shepherd with the weeding help! We appreciate you!

Love,
Jeannie Dawson, Activities Director and all at Good Shepherd

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

***Rushed on Wednesdays?
Let us do the cooking!***

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.*



LESSON THEMES

Oct 2 & 9: My Bible: Promise Kept
 God makes many promises to God's people in the Bible. In the New Testament, many of those promises are kept.

Oct 16 & 23: My Bible: Living the Promise
 Jesus asks us to live out his promises as his followers. Using the Bible as our guide, we share Jesus' love with others.

Oct 30 & Nov 6: All About Jesus: Jesus is a Friend
 Jesus plays many roles in our lives, but for children, we want to be sure they know Jesus is their friend who always listens & loves.

WHEN? Halloween Night
 5-6:30pm

WHO? PreK—5th grade

WHAT? Games and candy
 Blessing of children

WHERE? LIFE Center



FLC KIDS SING
Worship Lab & Good Shepherd!!

Wednesday, Oct 2nd @ 6pm

Sanctuary at 6pm for practice
 The children will go straight to Good Shepherd at 6:15pm and then come back to Worship Lab to sing for all of us.

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.





9 to 12 Youth Group

- October 6: No Meeting
- October 13: Service Project and dinner @5pm
- October 20: No Meeting
- October 27: Decorate Pumpkins @ 4pm

Friends are ALWAYS welcome!!

Text @ahd6ck to 81010 for Student Remind Texts!
Text @gf33f to 81010 for Parent Remind Texts!

678 LOCK—IN!!

Friday, Oct 4 @ 9pm
til
Saturday, Oct 5 @ 7am

Signed reg form must
be received by Sept
30th to attend

Service Projects
Midnight worship
Brownie sundaes
Movies, games & more!

GUEST SPEAKER

October 30th @ 6:45pm

Tri Faith Initiative
Rev. Sarah Rentzel-Jones
Countryside Community Church
Abdul Mackie, American Muslim Institute
Ilene Arnold, Temple Israel

Youth Opps

9 to 12

High School Youth Group
Sundays 5-6:30pm
Discussion, dinner, games, & more

9ers

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

678

Confirmation
Wednesdays 6:45pm-7:45pm



HAPPY
FALL
Y'ALL

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
October 2024**

**2024 Blair Crop Hunger Walk is October 20th
1:00 – 3:00pm Lion’s Park**

We invite First Lutheran members to join this year’s walk on October 20th 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/cropwalks/event/blairne> If you are unable to walk that day, select another time that is convenient for you and walk on your own. 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? Make online contributions by clicking on the MAKE A DONATION tab on the above link. 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 20th.

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 or John Mark Nielsen: 402-427-4443
Thank you for your continued support of this FLC annual event!

Social Concerns is planning the third “Courageous Conversation” scheduled for Sunday, November 3rd. The focus will be a discussion of the ELCA’s “Draft of a Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith.” Copies of the “short statement” will be made available on the counter in the “Gathering Space” as we get nearer to the event. Members who are interested in accessing the document can do a Google search by typing in: “elca draft social statement on civic life and faith”. This is the full document; we will be discussing the shorter version that begins on page four. More details will appear in next month’s Ambassador.

Finally, the Social Concerns committee thanks all those members who participated in September’s God’s Work; Our Hands. Members assisted fellow congregation members as well as completing projects at the church and the Good Shepherd Home. Thank you for caring; thank you for sharing.



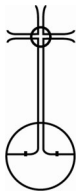
NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

SAVE THE DATE!

The annual fundraising craft fair sponsored by the First Lutheran Church Women will be November 23, 2024, from 9am to 3pm. Volunteers will be needed to shop, bake, serve the noon meal, staff the bake sale table, and clean up. Sign up sheets will be available at the end of October. Vendor registrations are available at FLCkraftfair@gmail.com. Contact Rhonda McMurtry, 402-427-3341, or Amy Mommsen, 402-677-3924, for any questions.

Women of the ELCA - Autumn Renewal 2024

“Come and join the Women of the ELCA for the Autumn Renewal! The theme this year is “Cultivating Love through Grace”. Nebraska Synod Bishop Scott Johnson will be leading the Bible study. We also have a wonderful speaker lined up as well as a chance to learn more about Nebraska Women of the ELCA. It is scheduled for Saturday October 12, 2024 at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Grand Island. 1515 S. Harrison Street. Registration begins at 9am with the program running from 9:30 to 3pm. Registration sheets will be on the women’s table. Cost is \$20 which includes a lunch. Deadline to register is Wednesday October 2.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2146 WRIGHT STREET
BLAIR, NE 68008
October 2024