

### NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

The standard contract for Transitional ministers includes the instruction: “Align the congregation in accordance with the constitutions and bylaws of the ELCA, the Nebraska Synod, and update the congregation’s constitution and bylaws.”

It’s not the most fun part of the calling.

But it is a valuable, even important task. The constitution of the congregation provides the foundation on which the entirety of the ministry is built. It describes the purpose and nature of the church, sets expectations for members, creates the process for the congregation to call Ministers and organize itself for mission. Not everyone appreciates the level of detail in the thousands of words contained in the document, but everyone is affected by them, knowingly or not.

In October we will be voting to update the constitution of First Lutheran Church, last done in 2015, to include new language updated by the ELCA in the meantime. Most of the changes are technical in nature, but several reflect important new understandings about the church and ministry.

Some highlights:

Chapter 6 – Church Affiliation. The requirements for a congregation to terminate its affiliation with the ELCA have been expanded. The process now requires super-majority votes at two separate, legally-called meetings of the congregation, 90 days apart and in consultation with the Bishop. As has always been the case, property ownership remains with the ELCA pending appeal to the Synod Council.

Chapter 8 – Membership. A new category for “Seasonal members” has been established to spell out the rights and responsibilities of church members who reside in the area for only part of the year and participate in life of the congregation during that time. This may have a greater effect on some FLC members who have summer homes in other places.

Chapter 9 – the Rostered Minister. Much work has been done in the ELCA over the past decade to understand and describe the role of ministers who are not ordained for Word and Sacrament ministry. The end result of this work has been to create the office of Ministers of Word and Service, or Deacons. These servants of the church are distinguished from Ministers of Word and Sacrament by their particular roles.

- **Ministers of Word and Sacrament.** Pastors serve with active, courageous faith to offer the hope of the sacraments and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in congregations and other ministry settings. Some pastors are called to specialized ministries such as chaplaincy and campus ministry.
- **Ministers of Word and Service.** Deacons serve in congregations and other ministries of the ELCA, including family ministries, youth, administration, volunteer ministry, social services, music or parish nursing. Deacons connect the church with the needs of the world and work to equip others to lead a living, active and caring Christian life.

**(Continued from Page 1)**

There is extensive new language in the constitution to govern congregations and Deacons in their ministry together. Other updates to the constitution clarify the specific calling of the Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Chapter 10 – Congregational Meeting. Allowance is made for electronic or remote participation in congregational meetings in keeping with applicable state laws.

Chapter 12 – Congregational Council. The updated constitution requires the council to include at least one youth member and one young adult member, which it already does at FLC. The FLC Church Council has determined that members may serve only one three year consecutive term.

Chapter 13 – Congregational Committees. The updated constitution includes an Audit Committee and a Mutual ministry committee.

The Bylaws of the congregation are not being updated at this time.

Complete copies of the updated will be available online or printed copies will be available by request. New language is indicated in red type, deleted language is struck out.

**The Procedure**

In order to make it possible for everyone at First Lutheran Church to participate in updating the constitution but also to ensure the needed quorum to complete the process we will be following these steps:

1. Copies of the constitution with all of the updates will be made available online and in print beginning in September.
2. On September 16th, 17th, and 20th, we will hold open forums to review the updates to the constitution. Any recommendations by members of the congregation to add or eliminate the updates will be given to the church council for action at their October meeting.
3. At its regular meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> the Church Council will review any further proposed changes to the updated constitution and anything that is approved will become part of the final vote.
4. Following worship services on October 14th, 15th and 18th, members of the congregation will vote to approve the updated constitution. There will be no further opportunity for motions or amendments at this point – this will be a simple YES or NO vote. Members who disapprove of the updates may, of course, vote against the updated constitution and it will be reconsidered at a later date.

Pastor Glen will be leading the congregation through this process.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

-Pastor Glen

**NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS**

***Inside this issue:***

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



**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!**

*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 Jerry Christensen
- ✝ Family of T.J. Dick
- ✝ Family of Ruth Rasmussen
- ✝ Family of Marian Ward
- ✝ Family of Gregory Chamberlin
- ✝ Family of Holden Mead
- ✝ 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
- ✝ Debbie Kempcke - cancer - healing
- ✝ 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**

**FLC Volunteers for Kids!!**

**PreK—5th Grade  
Volunteers**

Maelie Nelson  
Kenna Nielsen  
Lainey Bilau  
Abby Leggott  
Ruby Petersen  
Hannah Grace  
Lynette Jennings  
Cindy Smith  
Nicole Sok  
Sandy Yanak  
Deb Katt  
Judy Brehm  
Ryleigh Schroeter  
Maddie Kempcke

**678 Confirmation Small  
Grp Guides**

Sara Lierman  
Jodi Cunard  
Emily Petersen  
Laura Pike  
Joni Clements  
Jolyn Stratman  
Sara Foulk  
Teresa Preister  
Ashley Rasmussen  
Molly Stirek  
Tracy Gross  
Liz Soderberg  
Kim Leggott  
Misty Filows  
Brett & Brittney  
Gunderson

**678 Confirmation Faith  
Mentors**

Roger Hohensee  
Rich & Pat Jorgensen  
Judy Thompson  
Avery Misfeldt  
Scott Garder  
Pat Bentsen  
Loren Havekost  
Barb Triplett  
Ann Kobs  
Laurie Wick  
Jeff Smith  
Jim & Heidi Garnett  
Randy & Ruth Jensen  
Mark & Kay Dickinson

**THANK YOU**  
**for sharing time with our kids!!**

**THE FLC YOUTH FLAMINGOS ARE BACK!!**



**SEPTEMBER 10TH—OCTOBER 10TH**

The FLC Youth are taking orders!!

Flamingo Flocking — \$25  
Flocking Insurance — \$25

Send a friendly flock to your friends  
OR  
buy insurance to avoid a flock in your own yard!!

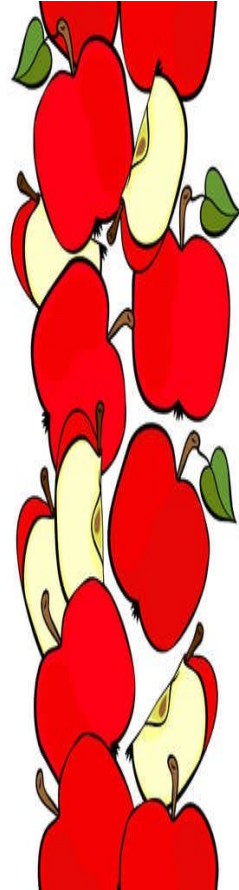
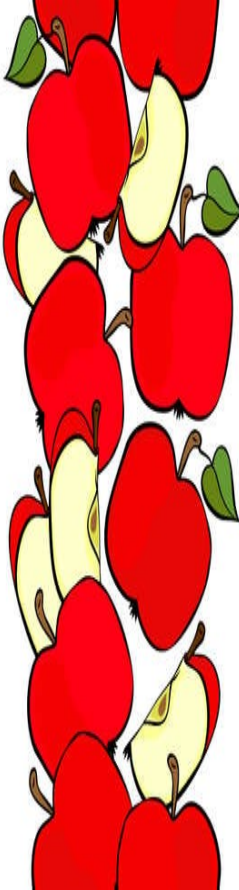
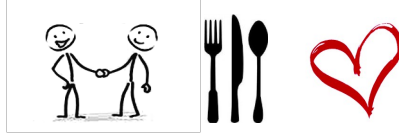
**ASK ERIKA FOR MORE DETAILS!!**



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!!

**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.

We are now livestreaming our worship services on Facebook Live.  
Please join [www.facebook.com/flclair](http://www.facebook.com/flclair) 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.



## NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

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

***W.O.W. Meal will start again on  
Wednesday, September 6th!***

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.*

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.

### Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed  
Monday, September 4th for  
Labor Day.



### *Choir News*

***Choir will be starting up again  
on Tuesday, September 5th at  
6:30pm in the Choir Room.***

But what if I can't sing? A tiny percentage of the population truly cannot sing. Most of us have been given the air and vocal cords we need, and what we may lack is confidence. Perhaps a negative experience affected your willingness to sing. We can develop and learn how to sing at any age. Choir can be one opportunity to explore the voice you didn't know you had. For more information and questions, contact Vince, at [vkrysl@firstlutheranblair.org](mailto:vkrysl@firstlutheranblair.org).



**Say THANK YOU!!**

Please say thank you to your child's teachers and helpers at LIFE Night!

Each and every week, they give one hour to the development of your kids, they love your kids, and they teach your kids about Jesus Christ.

Make sure they know they are appreciated!!



**BIRTHDAYS**

**We celebrate birthdays every week at Opening in the LIFE Center!!**

If your child is celebrating their birthday in the coming week, remember to send pennies with them for the church!!

They bring pennies to represent their age (age 8 = 8 pennies) and drop them in the church as we sing Happy Birthday to them!

Summer Bday? Celebrate their 1/2 bday!!

My bday is June 26, so my 1/2 bday didn't work either! So then just pick another special day!!



**LESSON THEMES**

**Aug 30 & Sept 6: Jesus Meets Children**  
 Jesus always told the disciples to let the children come to him because they're special and unique.

**Sept 13 & 20: Jesus Makes Fishers of Men**  
 Jesus said, "Follow Me!" and that has many meanings for all of us.

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

**LIFE NIGHT CLASS SCHEDULE**

6:45pm: Opening all together in LIFE Center  
 Offering, Birthdays (and 1/2 Bdays!), Prayer

7pm: Week 1—Lesson/Service Project in classrooms  
 Week 2—Music/Art in LIFE Center/classrooms

7:45pm: All classes dismissed  
 (4th & 5th from LIFE Center on Music weeks, everyone else from classrooms)

**Children's Offering in September**

This month, our offering will be shared with  
**Feeding America**

Feeding America works to get nourishing food to everyone in need, while addressing the root causes of hunger, as well. The food comes from farmers, manufacturers, and retailers.

Feeding America gives 98% of all donations directly to programs serving people in need.





**678**  
Confirmation  
Service Plunge!!  
 Friday, Sept 29  
 8:30am-4pm

Sign up at  
 Youth Nook in the  
 Fship Hall

**CREATED  
 TO BE**

New Orleans (NOYG)  
Team Bonding #1  
 September 10th @ 5pm  
 Tacos and drinks

Created to be **BRAVE**  
 "Yes, and..."

**REQUIRED for ALL participants!!**

**678 Lock-In!**

Friday, Sept 22 @ 9pm  
 TO  
 Saturday, Sept 23 @ 7am

Games, food, drinks, movies,  
 service projects, worship, and  
 more!!

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

Micah 6:8



**Youth OPPS**

**9 to 12**  
High School Youth Group  
 Sundays 6-7:30pm  
 Discussion, dinner, games, & more  
 NO MTG 9/3 or 9/10

**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 9/3 or 9/10

Join us for dinner at 6pm and who knows what's next!?  
 This month we will have a game night and a "Hot Topic"  
 night. 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  
September 2023**

THANK YOU to ALL who are bringing garden produce, flowers, or baked goods 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. For those of us who do not garden this is a great opportunity to buy some home grown produce! Don't be "scared off" by the size of the yellow squash. They are good for baking cookies, muffins, or squash bread. All proceeds will go to ELCA WORLD HUNGER. Let us pay generously for the produce so that others may be fed!

SCHOOL has started, and there is still time to contribute to our annual BACKPACK PROMOTION--a fundraiser which supports the FOODBANK for the HEARTLAND--the organization which supplies packs filled with healthy food to take home for the weekend for chronically hungry elementary and middle school students in Blair. There is an exhibit of the typical contents of these backpacks in the narthex, and the accompanying flyers there can provide you with more information about the program and ways to contribute to this worthy cause. Did you know that the cost of providing one child with weekend food in the backpacks for a school year costs \$164? One way in which you can contribute is to send your contribution to Foodbank for the Heartland: Attn: Backpack Program, 10525 J Street, Omaha, NE 68127. The available flyers will give you more information about how to contribute on-line, and we have been told that on-line contributions will be matched by Woodhouse.



If you receive these announcements before August 26 please note that FLC will be staffing the WASHINGTON COUNTY RECYCLING CENTER on Saturday, August 26. Volunteers are very much needed and a sign-up sheet is available at the Welcome Center! You may sign up for the whole morning or for 2 hours--8:00 to 10:00 A.M. or 10:00 A.M. to Noon! Eight to ten volunteers are needed for each shift. This offers us an opportunity to be good stewards of our environment. And a huge thank you goes to all FLC members who staff the Recycling Center every week!

GOD'S WORK/OUR HANDS is a program that takes place throughout the entire ELCA during the month of SEPTEMBER. This year we at FLC are encouraged to do "random acts of kindness" for others throughout the month. Following your "act of kindness" we invite you to fill out a form that will be provided for you to share your "act of kindness" without stating your name, and place it on a rolling chalkboard in the narthex. We encourage everyone to do and post at least one random act of kindness during the month of September, and hope that many of us will do these thoughtful acts often. You may also submit a photo of the act and either place it on the rolling chalkboard or post it on the FLC Facebook page. Children and youth are also invited to Participate. You will hear more about this at the worship services on Labor Day weekend, and will receive a suggestion sheet of possible random acts of kindness and the small slips for reporting your acts at the worship services on Wednesday night, September 6, Saturday evening September 9, and Sunday, September 10. Angela Khabeb writes in the "Living Lutheran" July/August 2023 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."

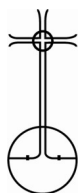
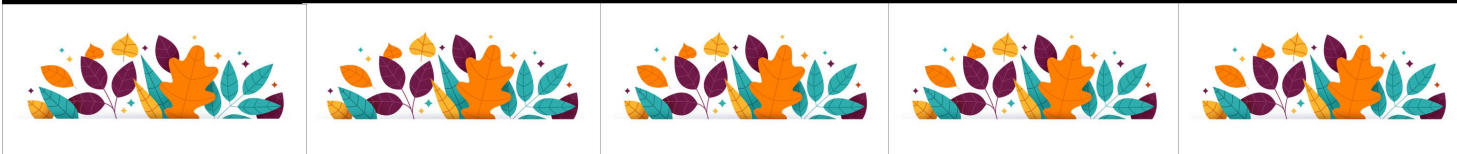


**(Social Concerns Committee Article Continued on Page 10)**

**(Social Concerns Committee Article continued from Page 9)**

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. There will be both a 5k and a 3k route, and we will return to FLC where we will have treats. We encourage both on-line solicitation as well as having a station at FLC in prior weeks where congregation members can make contributions while attending worship. Remember that 25% of the funds raised will be returned to our own WASHINGTON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY. Please plan to participate--either by walking or by supporting walkers financially. More information regarding how you can sign up to walk and/or to solicit funds on-line will be coming soon.

We are passing on a few quotes from a letter FLC recently received from Daniel Rift, Director of ELCA WORLD HUNGER and LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE FUND. "Congregations such as yours play a critical role in making it possible to support neighbors around the globe who experience the effects of hunger and poverty and support them for the long haul. I'm going to be very candid: with economic uncertainty impacting so many, we are also experiencing a reduction in the donations we count on to make the critical work of ELCA WORLD HUNGER happen. If you are in a position to do so, we are asking you to give as generously as you can today. A gift of any size makes a difference for families facing hunger and poverty. Even during times of crisis we have an opportunity to reflect Christ's light to the world in hope and love. A gift of any size makes a difference" ... Gifts to either ELCA WORLD HUNGER or LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE FUND can be mailed to 8765 Higgins Road - Chicago - IL 60631-4101.



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