

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.
Psalm 51:10–12

We come now into Lent, to a season of reflection and attention. A season of renewal and growth. A season of new life. Because the thing about life is you are always growing and dying.

I think we get confused about that when it comes to Lent. We act as if we enter Lent in a static state and leave it at the same way. We start the journey as if we were completely lost, hopeless, no chance. We leave it as if we were perfect, done, complete. But neither of those are true. We are never fully lost, even though we do stumble and wander. And in the end, God is never completely done with us - we are always ending and becoming, moving from winter to spring and back again, always being made new in the promise of our baptism.

Lent means Spring. Lent means growing, growing as we are planted, becoming the fullness of what God created us to be. The seeds of creation are diverse and amazing but they all grow into things beautiful and filled with purpose. All living things exist for a reason, and which is worse: that we do not return usefulness into the world in word and deed, or that we are so easily dismissive of the value of others around us simply because they are merely different than us?

How easily our small-mindedness steals joy and hope from the world! Perhaps it is our innate love of violence that drives our hatred and malice. Or perhaps it's our selfish sense of bitter grievance that keeps us inwardly focused and unable to appreciate others for who they are. We are living in another day in human history when denigrating our neighbor seems to have becoming the social norm. Surely this is the great impurity of our day.

A worthy topic for a season of reflection and repentance.

But this is Lent! Once more we are blessed with the opportunity to turn from darkness and experience God's spirit restoring us and bringing us back to life. On Ash Wednesday we hear again the words, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" - not as wrath or punishment but a reminder that the true nature of humanity is the constant potential of grace to make us brand new, again and again. It is never too late for us. There is always hope.

Because the seed never dies.

Over the long winter months we have lain in the cold, dark ground, waiting for the warmth of the sun to beckon us to life. We have been waiting for the spirit to warm our hearts, to draw us from the dark earth and bring us to life. We have been waiting because we are resurrection people - death is only a step along the path of constant renewal! The fullness of beauty and holy purpose approaches.

(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 at
the regularly
scheduled worship time.

(Continued from Page 1)

So let us bid death to all things dark and painful – to grudges and meanness, to pain and sorrow, to greed and corruption, to self-righteousness and self-importance. We are planted to become something better and lovelier. Spring is nigh – let the new day begin.

Is that Easter dawning on the horizon?

-Pastor Glen

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



**FLC honored by Red Cross
"Heroes in the Heartland"**

Red Cross has chosen to honor First Lutheran Church as a **"Hero in the Heartland"** for the ways this congregation has stepped up to support our community following multiple disasters in the past 2 years. This award is for EACH of us!!

We are honored to be recognized for loving our neighbors.
A virtual event will be held on **Tuesday, March 3rd @ 12pm** where video stories will be shared. You are encouraged to "attend" this event virtually.
Details will be shared in the eblast.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



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

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| <p>✠Family of Joan Clements
 ✠Family of Ellie Mommsen
 ✠Carol Haussermann
 ✠Betty Megrue - prayers
 ✠Jayde - prayers and healing
 ✠David Latwaitis & Family - peace and healing
 ✠Dr. Mariah Meyer LeFeber - prayers
 ✠Shelli McGregor - healing
 ✠Holly Petersen (Daughter of Marcy Bottorff)
 ✠Corrine Kruse (Mother of Tracy Gross) - prayers for healing
 ✠Randy Isaacson - prayers
 ✠Debra Harris
 ✠Mary Jean Rahlfs - healing
 ✠Alicia (Niece of Deb Katt and Mother of Georgia) - prayers
 ✠Gavin James - prayers
 ✠LaDean Untiedt (Mother of Teresa Preister) - treatment for breast cancer
 ✠Greg Megrue (Son of Betty Megrue) - serious health problems
 ✠Paul Kempcke - healing
 ✠Jennifer Novak-Haar - healing
 ✠Mary Connely
 ✠Schaapveld Family, Stirek Family, Gubbels Family, Warrick Family, and all others affected by the recent storms
 ✠Sana and Elley Smith
 ✠Marcie Ellenberger - healing
 ✠Brooklyn Schroeter - healing
 ✠Carla
 ✠Kari Hernandez - healing
 ✠Clint Clausen - prayers
 ✠Greg Reed
 ✠Mary Frey (mother of Rhonda McMurtry) - prayers
 ✠Wayne & Carolyn Behrend (Parents of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing
 ✠Jo Royuk (mother of Anne Chrans) - healing
 ✠Mick Jensen
 ✠Patrick McKinnis - healing</p> | <p>✠Amie Clausen - prayers & healing
 ✠Sunni Wilson (mother of Melody Dubon)
 ✠Julia Maettes - cancer treatments - prayers & healing
 ✠Elijah - healing
 ✠Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer
 ✠David Kaiser - healing
 ✠Helen Garnett (Jim Garnett's mom) - healing
 ✠Randy Backman - healing
 ✠Deloris Matson - early stage lymphoma - healing & prayers
 ✠Vivian Walvoord - healing & prayers
 ✠Dana - healing
 ✠Betty Anderson
 ✠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
 ✠Texas Flood Victims and all those we name in our hearts.</p> |
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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

ATTENTION High School Seniors and College Students: The Christian Growth Board is accepting scholarship applications for the 2026-2027 school year for post-secondary education. Any member of FLC that is currently a high school senior or college student may apply. Applications are available on the church website or by the Welcome Center. If you have any questions please call the church office at (402) 426-4073.

**The deadline to submit an application is
April 15, 2026.**

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

MWM

MID WEEK MEAL



Pickup or Delivery
Wednesdays 5:30-6:15pm

For Pickup
Text name & # of meals to 402-533-0918
NOT REQUIRED
For Delivery
Text name & address & # of meals to 402-533-0918

MWM Volunteers Needed!!

Cooks
You join a group of folks to cook the meal on
Wednesdays 1pm-3:30pm

Servers
You join a group of folks to serve the meal into to-
go containers on Wednesday 4:30-5:15pm

Delivery Drivers
You deliver meals to about 6-7 locations on
Wednesdays 5-6pm

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

Daylight Saving time will begin on Sunday, March 8th! Remember to set you clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

Reminder: Pastor Glen will be preaching at Good Shepherd Home on Sunday, March 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.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Lent at FLC 2026



Jesus lived in his body on earth and invites us to take care of—and embrace the goodness of—our own bodies.

Weekly themes include

March 4: Jesus Got Thirsty

March 11: Jesus Advocated for Himself

March 18: Jesus Got Hungry

March 25: Jesus Shed Tears



A Passion Reading

presented by FLC Youth

Sunday, March 29th @ 6:30pm

Hear the story of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, as read from the Gospel of Mark by FLC Youth.

A powerful experience for all.



Women's Bible Study

Ladies...now that the holidays are behind us, are you looking for something to keep the spirit of Christmas alive in your hearts and in your lives? Come and join other ladies on Friday mornings as we begin a new study about women of the Bible entitled ***“Brave and Beloved”*** by Meredith Storrs.

“Women of the Bible are just like us, but their particular lives, choices, and problems can sometimes feel foreign when we read them today. Through their stories, we can glimpse a vision of what it means to be a godly woman, but sometimes their experiences leave us scratching our heads. This Bible study looks specifically at key women in Scripture to discover how their stories upend cultural expectations and reveal the nature and character of the God who created us all.”

This Bible study meets on Friday mornings from 9:15 to 10:45 in the church library. No need to sign up, just show up. Questions? Email Susie Pinguoch at spinguoch@gmail.com or call (402) 533-3735.



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Butter Braid Sales!!



\$16 each

- Apple
- Cinnamon
- Blueberry & Cream Cheese
- Raspberry
- Strawberry & Cream Cheese
- Cherry
- Chocolate
- Caramel Rolls

Feb 18th—Mar 11th

Contact any FLC Youth or contact Erika to order!

Pick up — Begins March 25th after 12pm

Check the kitchen list to find out which church freezer your braids are located in!!

FLC Variety Show & Pie Auction!!



Presented by
2026 Trip to
The Dwelling, NC



Sunday, March 1st
6:30pm
LIFE Center

Come see our amazing talents!
Come buy a pie or a cheesecake!
And support our youth going to NC!!

Open to all ages!



The FLC Youth Garage Sale is BACK!!
so....**WE WANT YOUR STUFF!!**

Furniture, clothing, kitchen items,
sports equipment, outdoor de-
cor...anything!

We are taking all donations NOW!!

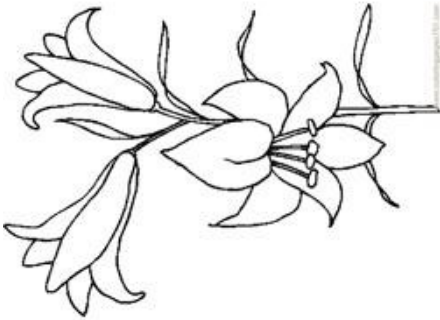
Contact Erika for more info.
Sale Dates: July 9th—11th



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Easter Lily Order Form

We will be using Easter lilies to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 5th. If you would like to honor a special person in your life, give a lily in memory of a loved one, or just help out in this way to beautify the church, please complete the information requested below, and drop this slip in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. Your free-will monetary offering may be included with this form to help cover the cost of the lilies. As we are tax-exempt, we will not be publishing a set "cost" for the lilies and therefore view them as a gift to First Lutheran to help decorate our worship space and at the same time honor or memorialize our loved ones.



to First Lutheran to help decorate our worship space and at the same time honor or memorialize our loved ones.

Check below if you wish to order a lily. Checks should be made payable to First Lutheran Church.

Orders must be received by March 30th.

Your Name(s) _____

Phone number _____

I am giving \$ _____ to be used to purchase lilies to decorate the church for Easter.

All Lilies given to decorate our church will be delivered to a shut-in. If you know of someone who would benefit from receiving one of the lilies, please include their name(s) here:

I would like _____ lilies in honor of: _____

I would like _____ lilies in memory of: _____

Guest Speaker from Oaks Indian Mission!!

Dan Cooper, Executive Director
March 25th @ 6:45pm in LIFE Center

We are a ministry partner of Oaks Indian Mission and celebrate a very long history of serving children and families in Oaks, Oklahoma.

Church Council Members

Here are the current Church Council Members approved at the Annual Meeting:

- Nancy Beaman, President
- Randy Jensen, Vice President
- Rhonda Matney, Secretary
- Jeanette Moeller, Treasurer
- Ashley Cooper
- Angie Hemminger
- Ann Hansen
- Jill Graber
- Mary Rasmussen
- Chris Mommsen
- Roger Hohensee
- Melody Dubon
- Ike Petersen, Youth Member
- Hannah Gross, Youth Member

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

First Lutheran Church
Visitation Pastor Match

The Church Council has received an anonymous pledge of \$6,000 per year for three years toward funding a Visitation Pastor. The Council invites the congregation to match or exceed this gift with special contributions so a Visitation Pastor can be hired this year.

This could be a one-time pledge, a monthly gift or up to a three year annual contribution. Matching monies should be designated to the Visitation Pastor fund. There will be a link for this fund on the FLC Home Page or a check can be dropped off at the church office. The Council is hoping this challenge will be the impetus for full funding of a Visitation Pastor in the 2029 annual budget.

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.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
SENIOR CITIZEN WORSHIP AND LUNCH

MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 2, 2026
11 AM WORSHIP
with Holy Communion

LUNCH to Follow
Please RSVP to the church office by
Friday, March 27th.

Rushed on Wednesdays?
Let us do the cooking!

W.O.W. Meal has started back up. It is every Wednesday evening from 5:30pm-6:15pm.

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.



FLC KIDS NEWS

A note from Erika:

We will be holding our Lenten worship services each Wednesday in March @ 6:15pm in the Sanctuary. Each week we will feature a story from Jesus' life that connects to our own human experiences.

Our weekly themes::

- Mar 4: Jesus got thirsty
- Mar 11: Jesus advocated for himself
- Mar 18: Jesus got hungry
- Mar 25: Jesus shed tears

Please join us to worship and help our FLC Kids remember that Jesus lived just as we do - as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter!!

MARCH 2026

Next BIG Event:

Kids sing on Palm Sunday!
March 29th at 10:15am

Please bring your kids to the Sanctuary at 9:45am on Sunday, March 29th. We will march in to the beginning song, sing our 2 selections, and then your kids will come to sit with you. It will be a joyous morning! Please don't miss it!!

Looking ahead:

MARCH 4TH	<u>The House that Went Splat</u> Art and Music
MARCH 11TH	<u>NO CLASSES - Spring Break</u>
MARCH 18TH	<u>The Boy Who Shared his Sandwich</u> Lesson and service project
MARCH 25TH	<u>The Boy Who Shared his Sandwich</u> Art and Music

Mar Kids Offering:



The Food Bank for the Heartland strives to provide nutritious food for those in need. They also run the "Backpack Program" for the families of school children.

MARCH BIBLE VERSE:

As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take and eat it. This is my body."
 Matthew 26:26

FLC YOUTH NEWS

MARCH 2026



Announcements

Verse of the Month

God is a safe place to hide, ready to help when we need him.

Psalm 46:1 MSG

VARIETY SHOW!!

Share your talents!

Juggle? Sing? Play an instrument?
Paint? March 1st - Tell Erika!!

No LIFE Night/Confirmation

Wednesday, March 11th

Please join us for Lenten Soup & Sandwiches at 5:30pm and worship at 6:15pm

GUEST SPEAKER!!

DAN COOPER

Wednesday, March 25th

Join us at worship @ 6:15pm followed by Mr. Cooper's presentation about Oaks Indian Mission in Oklahoma.

Palm Sunday Readers' Theatre

Sunday, March 29th

Be a part of our reading the Passion Story - rehearsal @ 5pm, Jimmy John's for dinner, perform @ 6:30pm

Fundraisers

BUTTER BRAIDS!!

Order until March 11th
Pickup March 25th



VARIETY SHOW & PIE AUCTION!!

Sunday March 1st @ 6pm

Share your talents in the show!
Bid on AND win a pie!



9 to 12 YG Plans

- **Mar 1: VARIETY SHOW & PIES**
 - LIFE Center @ 6pm
- **Mar 8: No Meeting**
- **Mar 15: No Meeting**
- **Mar 22: Remind Me Again Lesson Sardines & Snacks**
 - Youth Room @ 5pm
- **Mar 29: Passion Reading**
 - Sanctuary @ 6:30pm

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
March 2026**

Lenten Ingathering for the Oaks Indian Mission

During March and throughout Lent, the Social Concerns Committee is again sponsoring an ingathering for the Oaks Indian Mission (OIM). We will be welcoming Dan Cooper, OIM's executive director, and his wife, Ashley, who will be present and speak at the Wednesday evening service on March 25th. They look forward to sharing their work with young people and families at the Mission.

During the month congregation members are also invited to support the OIM's work by contributing needed items. These can be brought to the church and placed in the Welcome Center. The collected items will be taken down to the Oaks Indian Mission in April.

Items Needed:

Washing and Cleaning

Laundry Detergent

Bleach

Dish Soap

Disinfectant Wipes

Lysol

Glade & Airwick plug-in (refills)

Paper Towels

Trash Bags (15 & 40 gallon)

Personal Care

Shampoo & Conditioner

Body Wash (men & women)

Body Lotion

Tampons & Pads

Band Aids

Cough Drops

Food

Canned Goods (any & all but especially canned corn)

Snack Foods

Members can also contribute items directly from Amazon by going to the website for the Oaks Indian Mission www.oaksindianmission.org and on the homepage, drop down menu clicking on "Get Involved" and then "What We Need" and then "check out our list on Amazon." Items may be purchased on line and delivered directly to the Mission.



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29th
Worship at 8:15am & 10:15am
LIFE Night children sing at 10:15am
6:30pm "The Passion of Christ", a
Readers' Theatre presented by FLC Youth

Wednesday, April 1st
No LIFE Night Worship, Classes,
or W.O.W. Meal
5:30pm-6:30pm Mid Week Meal

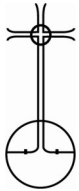
Maundy Thursday, April 2nd
11am Senior Citizen Worship & Lunch
7pm Evening Worship
1st Communion offered



Good Friday, April 3rd
12:05pm Community Good Friday Worship
at First Lutheran Church
(sponsored by the Washington
County Ministerial)
7pm Good Friday Cantata
with FLC Adult Choir

Saturday, April 4th
5pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 5th
7:00am—Sunrise Service
8:15am—Traditional Worship
10:15am—Contemporary Worship
FLC Youth Breakfast—7:45am-10:00am



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
 2146 WRIGHT STREET
 BLAIR, NE 68008
 March 2026