

### NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

Summer has come, and with a vengeance!

Last week we experienced 72 straight hours of temperature above 80° for the very first time ever here. And we could (and we should!) have a long, thoughtful, intelligent, fact-based, important conversation about the damage we have done to God's creation which produced this mess, a conversation that might make it possible to stop making it worse if not actually come up with a solution.

That said, these days I find myself also reflecting on how we are a product of our environment, on how we are deeply influenced by the atmosphere, real or perceived, in which we live. By the connection between *temperature* and *temper*.

Studies show that the rate of violent crime rises during the hottest season of the year. Just like warm weather influences behavior, so the social environmental raises our spiritual temper. What is driving the escalation of anger, fear and hate around us?

Why does everybody seem to be in such a bad temper?

First, there is no doubt that we live a day of change. Whether that change is different now than it has been in ages past is one question. Whether it is coming at us quicker than ever before is an interesting question. Whether we have seen more change in our lifetime than any generation before us is not a question. How we deal with that change, experience that change, react to that change, is the real question.

It is a natural human tendency to experience change as loss. There can never be change without loss. There cannot be new until the old has passed away. But knowing that does not make it easier. How we deal with loss, our ability to grieve well and endure loss is a necessary life skill, one that seems in short supply. We failed miserably during the COVID pandemic because we simply could not accept the loss of convenience and freedom that was required of us. Millions paid the price of our stubbornness. I believe that instead of growing from that challenge and becoming a better community, we merely hardened our hearts and embraced the pathology of our grievance. Now we are prisoners of that anger, looking for someone or something to take it out on.

And change is scary. Humans have always excelled at fear. Not afraid of what might be more powerful than us, because what is more powerful than us? We are the apex predator, the top of the food chain! Our fear is the fear of losing our primacy, of discovering we are not all we imagine ourselves to be. It's called "Imposter Syndrome." It is our daily reality. We bluster and we bully and we pose and we prance lest we be forced to confess the truth of who we actually are.

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

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### **Christian Growth Board Update**

The Christian Growth Board reviewed scholarship applications from the following students for the 2025 Scholarships:

Hope Andersen  
 Makayla Andersen  
 Lainey Bilau  
 Nadia Davey  
 Ella Donner  
 Maddison Kempcke  
 Blythe Knight  
 Cadence Quick  
 Ryleigh Schroeter  
 Mackenzie Storjohann  
 Anna Taylor  
 Kaylee Taylor  
 Mac Tupa  
 Eli Cada  
 Emma Cada  
 Leah Chance  
 Wesley Gunderson  
 Kolton Hammer  
 Tanner Jacobson  
 Ted Lueders  
 Claire Mann  
 James Rasmussen  
 Mallory Stirek  
 Kip Tupa  
 Kalli Ulven

We are pleased to announce that each applicant will receive a \$500 scholarship.

### **(Continued from Page 1)**

So it is no wonder that in this environment we are disconnected. The old adage might be that “misery loves company,” but who wants the company of people as miserable as us? We are desperate to belong, but the people we belong with are those just as angry and afraid. The rise of Supremacist groups, of associations based on discrimination and hatred and violence should come as no surprise to anyone. They are at the natural outcome of this environment. They are the product of our sinful *temperament*.

Temperature. Temper. Temperament. From one to another, the journey from fall to grace, from death to life, from sin to salvation.

The salvation of our temperament is born in baptism, the true gift of the Holy Spirit. It expresses itself in Christ-like characteristics of “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23) It lives in us because we know that, despite what the thermometer says, Grace blows gently and coolly in our hearts and in our world. Grace soothes our hearts, strengthens us in our fear, and reminds us of the one to whom we only, always, and truly belong: the God of never-ending love.

Our temperament is our witness in the world. We are the ones called to put out the fire and protect one another as the heat rages on.

-Pastor Glen



## NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



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

|                                                                                            |                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| †Family of Vicki Meyer (daughter of Shirley Schock)                                        | †Deloris Matson - early stage lymphoma - healing & prayers                  |
| †Family of Eden Lynn Bolen (daughter of Jill and CJ Bolen, granddaughter of Rhonda Matney) | †John Wick                                                                  |
| †Clint Clausen - prayers                                                                   | †Vivian Walvoord - healing & prayers                                        |
| †Carleen Andersen - knee surgery                                                           | †Dana - healing                                                             |
| †Ellie Mommsen                                                                             | †Betty Anderson                                                             |
| †Nate Preister - healing                                                                   | †Gordon Soderberg - healing                                                 |
| †Pearl Rathjen                                                                             | †Irene Thorsen                                                              |
| †Kari Hernandez - healing                                                                  | †Meredith Dickerson - Alpha Gal Syndrome                                    |
| †Greg Reed - quick & safe recovery from surgery                                            | †Zach - cancer healing/treatment side effects                               |
| †Mary Frey (mother of Rhonda McMurtry) - prayers                                           | †Misty - healing and pain relief                                            |
| †Carol Kuhfahl                                                                             | †Marilyn Svendgard                                                          |
| †Sophie Kempcke                                                                            | †Sue Marsh - healing                                                        |
| †Wayne & Carolyn Behrend (Parents of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing                     | †Merriebeth Ferguson (sister-in-law of Merriellen Bourn) - cancer - healing |
| †Jo Royuk (mother of Anne Chrans) - healing                                                | †Chris Kesling - healing                                                    |
| †Mick Jensen                                                                               | †Alex - surgery & healing                                                   |
| †Marilyn Swanson—healing                                                                   | †Mary LaScala                                                               |
| †Patrick McKinnis - healing                                                                | †Martin Kuhr - prayers and healing                                          |
| †Angela Ulven - healing                                                                    | †Riley                                                                      |
| †Amie Clausen - prayers & healing                                                          | †Georgia (great niece of Debbie Katt) -prayers & healing                    |
| †Sunni Wilson (mother of Melody Dubon)                                                     | †Kyler Reed - healing                                                       |
| †J. J. Ihrke & Family (son of Carol Ihrke) - battling ALS                                  | †Scott & Katie Abrams - prayers & healing                                   |
| †Julia Maettes - cancer treatments - prayers & healing                                     | †Kay Melby (Angela Ulven and Kari Hernandez's mother) - healing             |
| †Elijah - healing                                                                          | †Stacy Thompson Green (daughter of Marcy Bottorff) - prayers & healing      |
| †Josh Foulk - healing                                                                      | †Larry Kastrup – healing                                                    |
| †Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer                                                | †Leo Aguilar-Hicks – healing for Leukemia                                   |
| †Trina Kaiser - healing                                                                    | †Lekura Parish                                                              |
| †David Kaiser - healing                                                                    | †Tornado Victims and all those we name in our hearts.                       |
| †Helen Garnett (Jim Garnett's mom) - healing                                               |                                                                             |
| †Randy Backman - healing                                                                   |                                                                             |

### 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.

## NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

# 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

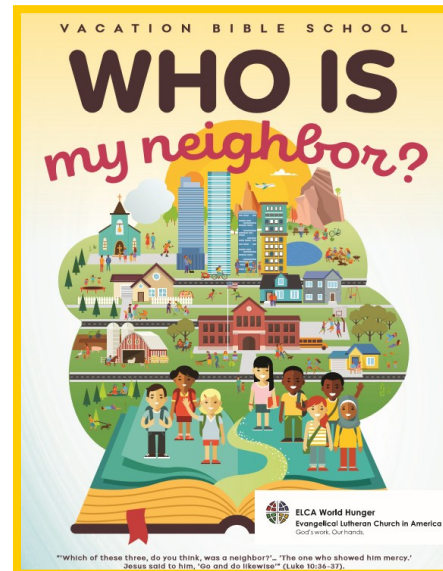
### For Delivery

Text name & address & # of meals  
402-533-0918

### PLEASE WELCOME OUR ELEVEN NEW DRIVERS FROM THE BLAIR AREA!

All of these folks have stepped up to help  
their neighbors once or twice a month.  
**THANK YOU!!**

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



**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**

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

## Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on  
Friday, July 4th.  
**Happy 4th of July!**

## NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



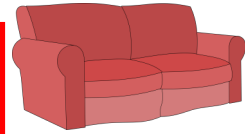
### FLC Youth Garage Sale!! Another Success!!

We are pleased to report another successful sale, in many thanks to LOTS of people!!

**We raised \$10,444 this year!!**

We are giving \$2,000 to the FLC General Fund to say thank you. Thank you to our sorters, our workers, our packers, our loaders, our buyers, and our givers!!

We believe in giving back to this church & congregation because you are so incredibly supportive of FLC Youth. THANK YOU!!



### Volunteer Opportunity!! Tri-Faith Unity Garden & Hope Orchard

Erika will be taking a group to volunteer at this amazing garden and orchard on either July 29 or 31. We will meet in the Fship Hall and leave at 9am. We will finish at 12pm—youth will have lunch in Omaha. Others are welcome to join!

Please let Erika know if you would like to join this group—we need to make prior arrangements so they're ready for us!  
(We also ask for your date preference.)

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

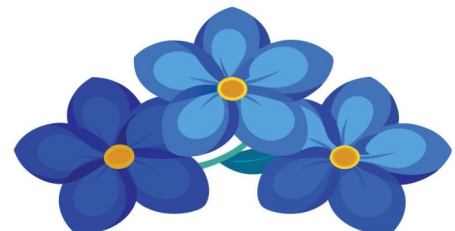
Starting on Wednesday, May 7th you are

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

# FAITH MENTORS!

**Would you be a Faith Mentor for our  
678 Confirmation students?**

You meet with the same confirmation group (4-7 students and their Small Group Guides) 4 times/year for their 3 years of confirmation activities and lessons. You develop relationships and become connected in such meaningful ways. Ideally, this is a 3 year commitment; however, life happens so that's not written in stone.

**Consider joining the Confirmation village that supports our 678 students.  
You will never regret the time you spend in this ministry.**

### 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](mailto:spinquoch@gmail.com).

**Reminder: Pastor Glen will be preaching at Good Shepherd Home on Sunday, July 6th 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.**

# FLC KIDS NEWS

## A note from Erika:

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

- **WHEN:** July 14 -18 @ 9am-12pm
- **WHO:** 3 yr old - 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Facebook or [www.firstlutheranblair.org](http://www.firstlutheranblair.org)

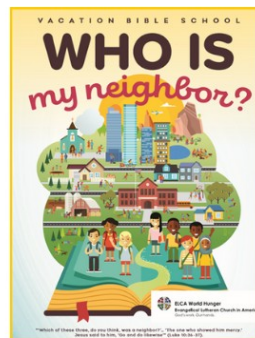
**Use this QR Code to register!!**



## July 2025

## Next BIG Event:

### **VBS 2025**



## Looking ahead:

**JULY 14TH -18TH**

### **VBS @ FLC!!**

Mon-Fri 9am-12pm with lunch following

**AUGUST 27TH**

### **NEW YEAR AT FLC BEGINS!!**

5:30pm: WOW Meal  
6:15pm: Worship Lab  
6:45-7:45pm: Classes for PreK-5th

## Summer Offering:

WASHINGTON COUNTY  
**FOOD PANTRY**  
Celebrating 20 years!

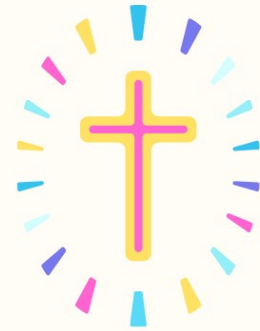
Please consider making a weekly or monthly donation to our local food pantry this summer! You can drop it at the pantry OR you can drop it at church and we'll deliver for you! There is a box right inside the Narthex. Help your kids help their neighbors this summer!

### **JULY BIBLE VERSE:**

Whenever I am anxious and worried, you comfort me and make me glad. **Psalm 94:19**

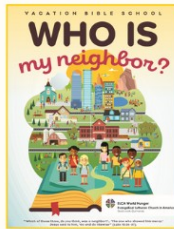
# FLC YOUTH

## NEWS JULY 2025



### Announcements

#### Help at VBS 2025



**July 14-18 @ 9am-12pm**

Could you be a helper?  
Simulation Station, 3rd grade, and  
more - **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!

### Confirmation Info

#### Class Schedule

**Wednesday, Aug 20 @ 6:15pm**  
Parent AND Student Orientation

**Wednesday, Aug 27 @ 6:45pm**  
All classes begin

#### Worship Lab 1st Night

**Wednesday, Aug 27 @ 6:15pm**  
6<sup>th</sup> Graders receive Bibles!!

### 9 to 12 YG Plans

#### July 29 OR 31

**Work at the Tri-Faith  
Unity Garden & Hope Orchard!**  
*Meet @ Fship Hall @ 9am*

We'll go work til 12 and then stop for  
lunch on the way home.

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  
July 2025**

One way we can care for our environment is by recycling. Once again First Lutheran Church is providing volunteers for the Washington County Recycling Center. **The date is Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to Noon. There are two shifts: 8:00 to 10:00 and 10:00 to Noon.** A sign-up sheet will be at the Welcome Center at the church, and members can sign up for one or both shifts. Please volunteer if you can. Our congregation has a great reputation with the WCRA for providing volunteers.

The Social Concerns Committee is making plans for the 6<sup>th</sup> Courageous Conversation to be held in late August. Since the national ELCA convention will be acting on the report of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church, Pastor Glen suggested that we invite a member of the commission, Linda Timmons, CEO of MOSAIC, to lead a discussion on what the implications of this report means for the ELCA and for First Lutheran Church. Please look for details and the date in the August issue of the Ambassador.

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**NOTES◆DATES◆REMINDERS**

**ATTENTION FLC MEMBERS!!**

FLC is now using a new database called Realm. This database is used to organize our membership records. This system also tracks all our financial giving, enables us to do scheduling, and Realm collects all kinds of information to help us be a better church.

The really unique thing about Realm is that YOU, the congregation, can update, edit, and control all of your own data in the system. You can change your address, add an email preference, tell us where you'd like to be more involved at FLC, see your giving information, and so much more.

**If you would like to do this from home please email Vince at [vkrysl@firstlutheranblair.org](mailto:vkrysl@firstlutheranblair.org) to request a login.**

**We hope to have all our FLC members update their profiles and begin interacting on Realm by the end of 2025.**

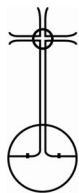
**New Christ in Our Homes  
are here**

**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 July, August, & September. 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

## NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

We are now  
livestreaming our  
worship services on  
Facebook Live.

Please join [www.facebook.com/flcblair](https://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.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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July 2025