

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

It is one of the great love stories of the Bible.

You can judge for yourself whether or not it's actually romantic.

It is, first of all, a story about three women becoming widows, a social classification that leaves them especially vulnerable and powerless. It does not help that two of them are Moabites, not Jews, leaving them with no legal standing in the community either. How two Moabite women becomes important characters in the Bible is an interesting, but perhaps not romantic, story in and of itself.

Newly widowed, Naomi determines to return home in hopes that someone might have pity and take her in. She encourages her daughters-in-law to do the same. In great grief and sorrow the first chooses to do so. But the other, Ruth, clings to her mother-in-law, hopeless though that cause may be. Hallmark movies are made of such devotion. Ruth will forsake her family, her identity, even her own people, that she may go with Naomi.

Facing the bitterness of their situation, they come to Bethlehem.

That's where the story actually begins, as Naomi identifies help in the person of her husband's well-to-do distant cousin Boaz. They glean barley from his field like the common poor, and there Ruth falls under the gaze and protection of Boaz. With some guidance from her mother-in-law and a certain amount of boldness, Ruth places herself in the presence of Boaz, such that he undertakes to fulfill his familial responsibilities to her, and they are married.

Not exactly love at first sight but ...

The story of Ruth is the story of deep commitment. We aren't told why Ruth was so devoted to her mother-in-law or why she would not leave her even for her own well-being. There is something unspoken, something bigger and deeper that is beyond human logic and wisdom. Ruth was "determined," we are told, which could just as easily be read "obstinate" as it could be "courageous," but especially in this context "strong." She is firm in her devotion, it matters.

Boaz's initial involvement in this story is also about commitment, about his commitment to the commanded acts of kindness and charity that God expects of all his children. His wealth and status have not blinded him to his responsibility to the community. When he is drawn closer to Ruth and her kinship is revealed to him, he does not flinch at the call to meet his greater commitment to the law and to his kin. He fulfills all righteousness, as is expected in this situation, and his marriage to Ruth is blessed.

Ruth is the grandmother of David.

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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

(Continued from Page 1)

I am reminded of a moment in the life of the prophet Jeremiah. It is near the end, and Jeremiah is imprisoned, waiting for Jerusalem to fall. In the bleakness of that moment Jeremiah is commanded to fulfill the same legal responsibility that lies at the heart of the story of Boaz and Ruth. Following that same commandment, Jeremiah purchases and redeems a particular plot of land, knowing that said land will soon be lost to foreign occupation. Jeremiah's purchase is a seemingly empty and useless gesture. But it is a thing that must be done, a commitment required by the law. And Jeremiah obeys.

Commitment is not romantic, it is often dull and boring and dreary and bothersome.

Commitment is the heart and soul of love. It has the power to transform neediness into steadfastness, to create space for humans to do the impossible. To live together. Even forever. A godly thing indeed.

Stories of commitment are not good at selling flowers and chocolates. Romantic creatures that we are, we are drawn to shiny objects and starlit panoramas. But there is love that is greater than both of those two frauds. It is the promise to do the right thing, all the time. It is the connection that binds us through all time.

May your days be filled with such love.

-Pastor Glen



Kids Singing!!

Please join us on
Wednesday, February 25th @ 6:15pm
to hear our PreK—5th graders sing!
They will also sing for the residents at Good Shepherd Nursing Home that night!

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



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

- | | |
|---|---|
| ✠Family of Marilyn Swanson | ✠Sunni Wilson (mother of Melody Dubon) |
| ✠David Latwaitis & Family - peace and healing | ✠Julia Maettes - cancer treatments - prayers & healing |
| ✠Dr. Mariah Meyer LeFeber - prayers | ✠Elijah - healing |
| ✠Shelli McGregor - healing | ✠Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer |
| ✠Holly Petersen (Daughter of Marcy Bottorff) | ✠David Kaiser - healing |
| ✠Corrine Kruse (Mother of Tracy Gross) - prayers for healing | ✠Helen Garnett (Jim Garnett's mom) - healing |
| ✠Randy Isaacson - prayers | ✠Randy Backman - healing |
| ✠Debra Harris | ✠Deloris Matson - early stage lymphoma - healing & prayers |
| ✠Chancey Schwedhelm | ✠Vivian Walvoord - healing & prayers |
| ✠Mary Jean Rahlfs - healing | ✠Dana - healing |
| ✠Alicia (Niece of Deb Katt and Mother of Georgia) - prayers | ✠Betty Anderson |
| ✠Gavin James - prayers | ✠Irene Thorsen |
| ✠LaDean Untiedt (Mother of Teresa Preister) - treatment for breast cancer | ✠Meredith Dickerson - Alpha Gal Syndrome |
| ✠Greg Megrue (Son of Betty Megrue) - serious health problems | ✠Zach - cancer healing/treatment side effects |
| ✠Paul Kempcke - healing | ✠Misty - healing and pain relief |
| ✠Jennifer Novak-Haar - healing | ✠Marilyn Svendgard |
| ✠Mary Connely | ✠Sue Marsh - healing |
| ✠Schaapveld Family, Stirek Family, Gubbels Family, Warrick Family, and all others affected by the recent storms | ✠Merriebeth Ferguson (sister-in-law of Merriellen Bourn) - cancer - healing |
| ✠Sana and Elley Smith | ✠Chris Kesling - healing |
| ✠Marcie Ellenberger - healing | ✠Alex - surgery & healing |
| ✠Brooklyn Schroeter - healing | ✠Mary LaScala |
| ✠Carla | ✠Martin Kuhr - prayers and healing |
| ✠Kari Hernandez - healing | ✠Riley |
| ✠Clint Clausen - prayers | ✠Georgia (great niece of Debbie Katt) -prayers & healing |
| ✠Ellie Mommsen | ✠Kyler Reed - healing |
| ✠Greg Reed | ✠Scott & Katie Abrams - prayers & healing |
| ✠Mary Frey (mother of Rhonda McMurtry) - prayers | ✠Kay Melby (Angela Ulven and Kari Hernandez's mother) - healing |
| ✠Wayne & Carolyn Behrend (Parents of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing | ✠Stacy Thompson Green (daughter of Marcy Bottorff) - prayers & healing |
| ✠Jo Royuk (mother of Anne Chrans) - healing | ✠Larry Kastrup – healing |
| ✠Mick Jensen | ✠Leo Aguilar-Hicks – healing for Leukemia |
| ✠Patrick McKinnis - healing | ✠Lekura Parish |
| ✠Amie Clausen - prayers & healing | ✠Texas Flood Victims and all those we name in our hearts. |

***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.*

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 5:30-6:30pm

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

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 January, February, and March. 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.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Butter Braid Sales!!



\$16 each

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

Feb 18th—Mar 11th

Contact any FLC Youth or contact Erika to order!

Pick up — Begins Mar 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 FLC Youth



Sunday, March 1st
6pm
LIFE Center



We need **ACTS!!**

Do you juggle? Act? Dance? Play an instrument? Tell jokes?

Open to all ages!

Talk to Erika!!

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.

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



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

FLC Council Youth Reps

Thank you Sophie Kempcke & Lane Christensen
for your service in 2025!!

and

Welcome Hannah Gross & Ike Petersen, our 2026 reps!!



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.**

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 Pinquoch at spinquoch@gmail.com or call (402) 533-3735.



FLC KIDS NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

A note from Erika:

Celebrate LOVE this month with some acts of kindness! Here are some suggestions!

- Share something you love about one another at mealtime.
- Leave a "You are Loved" note on someone's windshield.
- Give an extra tip to a server at a restaurant.
- Donate food/money to the WA County Food Pantry with a "You are Loved" card.
- Drop off some "You are Loved" cards to the local nursing home.

Go out and share God's Love this month!!
Erika

Next BIG Event:

Kids sing on February 25th!!



Please have the kids in the Sanctuary by 6pm!

The kids will sing at Good Shepherd Nursing Home @ 6:15pm & come back to sing for us at worship.

Looking ahead:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| FEB 4TH FEB 11TH | The Little Man Whose Heart Grew Big Zacchaeus Lesson & Service Project/Art & Music |
| FEB 18TH | ASH WEDNESDAY NO CLASSES Please join us for worship & imposition of ashes at 6:15pm followed by a Lenten Scavenger Hunt for families & all ages |
| FEB 25TH | The House That Went Splat Matthew 7:21-29 Build our faith on our rock - Jesus |

Feb Kids Offering:



The WA County Food Pantry provides food for those who are hungry and food insecure in WA County. The food is provided through donations, purchases, and the USDA. All proceeds from Joseph's Coat Thrift Store are also used to purchase food.

FEBRUARY BIBLE VERSE:

MY DEAR CHILDREN, LET'S NOT JUST TALK ABOUT LOVE; LET'S PRACTICE REAL LOVE.
1 JOHN 3:18 (MSG)



FLC YOUTH

NEWS

FEBRUARY
2026



Announcements

Verse of the Month

My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love.
1 John 3:18 (MSG)

Youth Gathering 2027!!

Information Meeting

Sunday, February 15th @ 6:15pm

ALL 8th - 11th graders are able to go to the Gathering in June/July, 2027
Come find out more details - invite friends!

FLC membership not required

678 Service Plunge

Friday, February 13th 815am-4pm

Mosaic 9am-11:30am

Food Bank for the Heartland

1pm-3:30pm

AND Pizza Ranch for lunch!!

Sign up with Erika or in Youth Nook

Ash Wednesday

February 18th @ 6:15pm

Please join us for worship & imposition of ashes followed by a Lenten Scavenger Hunt for all ages

Fundraisers

Butter Braids!

Feb 18 - Mar 11

All 6th - 12th graders,
please try to sell 3 items

Pie Auction/Variety Show!

March 1st @ 6pm

Contact Erika if you would like to perform in the show!!

Funds raised support:

9 to 12 Events

(mini golf, meals, etc.)

Lock-ins

Service Projects & Plunges

Upcoming Trips

Youth Gathering 2027!!

9 to 12 FAITH in FEBRUARY

Join us for a short Bible study, an activity & a prayer to start your week.

Sundays @ 5-6pm in Youth Room!!

- **Feb 8:** *Who is Your Everyone?*
- **Feb 15:** *Good & Worthy of Love*
- **Feb 22:** *BE: The Church*

Micah 6:8



Do justice
love kindness
walk humbly
with your God.

I LOVE YOU

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
February 2026**

The Social Concerns Committee is sponsoring two activities in February. We invite our fellow FLC members to participate and to give as you have done so generously in the past.



HAVE A HEART FOR HUNGER

OUR 14TH ANNUAL "HAVE A HEART FOR HUNGER"

campaign will kick off on January 31st and continue through March 1st in support of the Washington County Food Pantry. This is another opportunity where FLC can assist with making sure no one in the community goes Hungry, All items and cash contributions are welcome, but the pantry has a special request for the following SOUP THEME ITEMS: soup crackers, soup mix, canned soup, broth, chili fixin's (chili beans, kidney beans, tomatoes, chili seasoning, etc.). Look for the display and grocery cart in the narthex. **We will also be hosting a Family Fare food drive on Saturday, February 28th from 9:00am – noon.** Look for a sign-up sheet on the welcome center to volunteer at this event. Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors and plan to shop then. Thank you FLC for your participation in this very important annual event for our community.

VOLUNTEERING AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY RECYCLING CENTER

Washington County Recycling Center, Saturday, February 21st. The Social Concerns Committee has again scheduled FLC to provide volunteers for three dates in 2026. Our first scheduled date is Saturday, February 21st from 8:00 until Noon. Volunteers are needed for two shifts, the first from 8:00 to 10:00, and the second from 10:00 to Noon. One may volunteer for one or both shifts. Early in February there will be a sign-up sheet at the desk in the Welcome Center. We encourage you to sign-up as it helps us to know that we will have enough volunteers, but do come even though you may forget to sign up! The remaining two dates in 2026 that FLC will provide volunteers at the Recycling Center are August 29th and November 7th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH, the Social Concerns Committee has scheduled Dan and Ashley Cooper of Oaks Indian Mission as special presenters for the Wednesday evening meal and service on March 28th. The committee also plans an ingathering of special items needed by the OIM ahead of their visit.



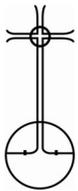
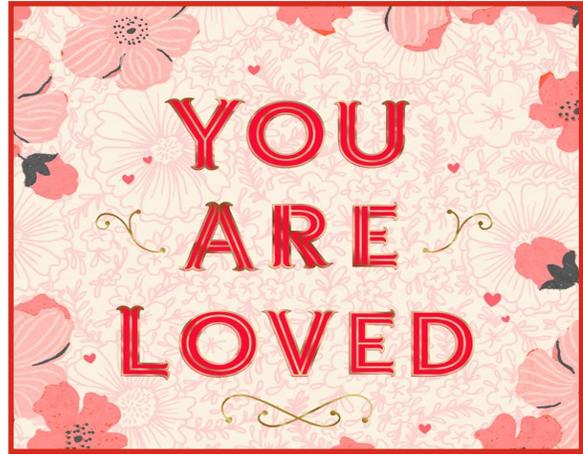
NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

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
- Ike Petersen, Youth Member
- Hannah Gross, Youth Member

Reminder: Pastor Glen will be preaching at Good Shepherd Home on Sunday, February 1st 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.



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