

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

The combines are in the field now. Will the harvest be good?

I should imagine that advancements in technology have taken a lot of the mystery out of harvest. Having watched the fields all year long, most farmers probably already have a good idea of how the harvest is going to come in and what to do about it when it does.

Being an optimistic person, I pray that harvest delivers a good reward for much hard work, a sense of accomplishment and well-being. This season should be an annual reminder that God is benevolent and generous, providing for the needs of his people, gracing us with a good and plentiful land.

Biblically speaking, we often use the metaphor of harvest as a symbol of reward. If we've lived a good and righteous life, when the time of harvest comes God will bring us into our eternal home. Amid the trials and challenges of life, these words give comfort.

But we also use the language of harvest as incentive: "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few." We hear the calling to get out there and bring in the harvest and not leave the crops withering in the field. All those poor souls who do not know Jesus as their personal Savior are a judgement of the shortcoming of our mission.

Am I one of those poor souls? Will I be left out of the great harvest?

I hear fear in that question, a deficit of trust and hope. The world teaches us to be focused on outcomes and accomplishment, to measure ourselves and each other by the work we do and the results we get. We grasp for perfection that we can never attain, we are caught in an endless cycle of doubt and self-recrimination. We are never happy, we have no joy. It might be a good model for business, but it is a terrible way to live, and an even worse way to practice faith.

The spirit of our baptism begins and ends with the promise of grace, a gift of hope that can neither be measured nor merited. In the falseness of religion we portray God as eternal judge, constantly measuring our worth and assessing our faults. We cower in fear that we have not done enough to be worthy of his love. That is exactly the opposite of his Word. Salvation is not our accomplishment – it is not supposed to be. Thanks be to God who gives us this free gift in Jesus Christ!

What if, instead of allowing our worldly principles to encumber faith, we flipped the narrative and called upon the experience of grace to change up the way we managed this life?

Grace is always forward-looking, not obsessed with measurables and outcomes but defined by relationship and possibility. The recent Gospel readings on Sundays have been (sometimes bluntly) warnings against the pursuit of worldly rewards like status and wealth and the preference of God toward those we deem failures - the poor and the forgotten, the outsider and the uninvited. God measures worth exactly opposite the way we do. Jesus comes to usher in a day of freedom from the limitations of human assessment.

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Are we saddened that the church is not measuring up to the world's vision of success? The church is not dying – its health is not determined by measurables like attendance or numbers on a balance sheet. Do you decide the sharing of your time, talents and treasures on whether or not the church deserves it? We make decisions from a worldview of scarcity and fear. In the Kingdom of God, the harvest is always plentiful and grace is always abundant.

In the world, Fall is a season of harvest, of endings. In our spiritual lives, this is the time to think about stewardship, about how we serve in the church and in our life. As we start considering another year of ministry together, preparing another budget and considering a Pastoral Call, may we approach these challenges with boldness and faith, placing ourselves in the hands of our God who fills our lives with every good gift.

-Pastor Glen

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 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.

*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



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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>✠Family of John Wick
 ✠Family of Connie Dahlgren
 ✠Family of Ronald Sorensen
 ✠Family of John Caskey
 ✠Family of Steven Sonderup
 ✠Paul Kempcke - healing
 ✠Jennifer Novak-Haar - healing
 ✠Lynette Jennings - surgery - healing
 ✠Mary Rasmussen - healing
 ✠Claudia Branick-Spieker (Sister of Nancy Beaman/
 Aunt of Laura Pike) - cancer treatment
 ✠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
 ✠Ellie Mommsen
 ✠Nate Preister - healing
 ✠Greg Reed
 ✠Mary Frey (mother of Rhonda McMurtry) - prayers
 ✠Sophie Kempcke
 ✠Wayne & Carolyn Behrend (Parents of Deb Henson) -
 prayers for healing
 ✠Jo Royuk (mother of Anne Chrans) - healing
 ✠Mick Jensen
 ✠Marilyn Swanson—healing
 ✠Patrick McKinnis - healing
 ✠Amie Clausen - prayers & healing
 ✠Sunni Wilson (mother of Melody Dubon)
 ✠Julia Maettes - cancer treatments - prayers & healing
 ✠Elijah - healing
 ✠Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer</p> | <p>✠Trina Kaiser - healing
 ✠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
 ✠Gordon Soderberg - healing
 ✠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> |
|--|---|

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

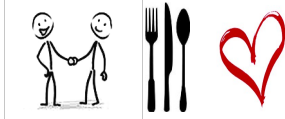
**W.O.W. Meal has started back up. It is every
Wednesday evening from 5:30pm-6:15pm.**

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****FLC MEMBERS!!!**

Please help us spread the word!

Tell folks about this ministry!

Tell people who may want to volunteer.
Tell people who could use a meal.

Pickup

Pickup in the east parking lot
Wednesdays 5:30-6:15pm

Delivery

Text # of meals & name to

Erika @ 402-533-0918

WE NEED COOKIES/BARS!!

Call Erika or click the Signup.com link in our eblasts to donate 3 dozen cookies on a Wednesday.



WHEN? October 31st

5pm—6:30pm

WHO? All PreK—5th graders

WHAT? Games and candy

Halloween Blessing

WHERE? LIFE Center

**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.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



FLC KIDS SING

Worship Lab & Good Shepherd!!

Wednesday, Oct 22nd @ 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.

SAVE THE DATE!

The First Lutheran Church Women's craft fair will be Saturday, November 22nd. Vendors and volunteers will be needed. Sign up sheets will be available at the end of October.

For more information, contact Rhonda McMurtry,
402-427-3341, or
Amy Mommsen,
402-667-3924.

Women of First Lutheran

Every Tuesday morning from 8:30 to 12:00, women of First Lutheran are meeting for the Love Days. We meet in the Quilt Room, just left off of the elevator in the basement. We work on quilts that are given away to mission of the area and Lutheran World Relief. You are welcome to come anytime during the 8:30 to 12:00 time period! We tie quilts, pin and sew bindings! We make tops, middles, and backs for the quilts and cut squares of fabric for the blocks. Please come and join us on Tuesdays anytime during 8:30 to 12:00 to help make quilts available to distribute to others. You don't need to know how to sew to help in making the quilts.

Kits for Lutheran World Relief

We are in the process of putting together Health, School, and Baby Kits. You can make a donation for these kits by giving a check made out to Women of First Lutheran with kits in the memo line. Supplies will then be purchased to complete these kits which are sent to Lutheran World Relief in the fall. Some items you can purchase for the kits are: 24 box crayons, pencils, Bic pens, 70 page notebooks, 12 inch rulers, Ivory Bar Soap, and hand towels. A tote to collect these items is in the basement by The Quilt Room door.

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.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

Reminder: Pastor Glen will be preaching at Good Shepherd Home on Sunday, October 5th 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.

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.

In August of 2024, after 18 months of interim and search, and with the blessing of the Bishop of the Nebraska Synod, you and I decided that we should continue our ministry together. Because I had been assigned to FLC as an interim, the constitution prohibited a regular letter of call, so the congregation voted to extend a “term call” for 18 months, beginning August 1, 2024 and concluding on January 31st, 2026.

Therefore at the annual meeting on January 25th the congregation will need to vote to extend a regular call if we are to continue our ministry together.

We will be putting together a somewhat atypical version of the call process in the upcoming months. I challenge you to take this seriously, and I promise you that I will too. This is not a simple hiring process. The constitution says, “The call of this congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment ...”

As we prepare for this important work, let us begin it with prayer:

Gracious, giving God, give us your help again, just as you have always done. Remind us of your care. Let there be gratitude in our congregation, for all that is needful has been sent and ordained for us already. As we work to call a new pastor to our congregation, may we be strengthened for this task with the thought that your providing reaches to every need of your church. This group of leaders and community of believers is your church, too. Amen.

FLC KIDS NEWS

A note from Erika:

FLC is a LARGE Church Family!!

I often hear this from many FLC people,
"Oh! I had no idea he/she went to 1st Lutheran!"

We are very blessed to have a church with a large and diverse group of members. To meet everyone's needs, we provide 4 unique worship services each week. Sometimes, folks forget that people can and do choose to attend any and/or all of those services.

So don't forget about your fellow FLC members who attend other services! Don't assume a new face is a new person to FLC! They may just attend a different worship service than you!

If you're able, I strongly encourage you to attend a different service than your norm once in awhile. It's fun to worship in a different style, see who else attends FLC with you, and learn more about FLC. Saturdays @ 5pm, Sundays @ 8:15am and 10:15am, and Wednesdays @ 6:15pm

See you at FLC! Whenever you can be here!



October 2025

Next BIG Event:

FLC Kids' Halloween Party!!

**Friday, October 31st
5pm - 6:30pm**

Join us indoors for a room full of Halloween games and activities for PreK - 5th graders!

Bowling & Roll the Dice
 Lollipop Tree & Tic Tac Toe
 Parachute & Photo Booth
 Halloween Bingo
 Decorate a paper pumpkin
 Feed the Ghost
 Halloween Blessing & more!

Lesson Schedule

OCTOBER 1ST	The Best Thing to Do (The Prodigal Son) Lesson & Service Project
OCTOBER 8TH	The Best Thing to Do (The Prodigal Son) Art & Music
OCTOBER 15TH	Love Your Neighbor Lesson & Service Project
OCTOBER 22ND	Love Your Neighbor Art & Music
OCTOBER 29TH	Gratitude/Thanksgiving Lesson & Service Project

Don't Forget - FLC Kids sing October 22nd!

Be in Sanctuary at 6pm to go sing at Good Shepherd & then Worship Lab!

October Offering:



We will continue to collect our weekly offering for

**Jeanette Hunt
Animal Shelter**

OCTOBER BIBLE VERSE:

Do not forget to do good to others. And share with them what you have. These are the sacrifices that please God. **Hebrews 13:16**



FLC YOUTH

OCTOBER 2025

NEWS

Announcements

FUNDRAISER COMING!!

FLC Youth will sell
Holiday Greenery
beginning October 29th



FLC HALLOWEEN PARTY!!

Come and help our little ones have a very Happy Halloween!!

Great option for Community Service!

Friday, October 31st

5 - 6:30pm

Hand out candy

Play games with kids

Let Erika know if you can help!!

678 Info

Service Night @ Confirmation

Wednesday, October 15th

6:45-7:45pm

- Tie fleece blankets for The Dwelling
- Create Blessing Bags for Youth Emergency Services
- Tie quilts for FLC Love Days
- Create Veterans Day cards

Service Plunge

Friday, October 17th

8:30am-4:30pm

We will go to Omaha and help out at 2 agencies - possibilities include Open Door Mission, Mosaic (disabled adults), San Andres Lutheran Church, Lutheran Family Services
We will also go out to lunch.

9 to 12 YG Plans

OCTOBER 26TH

5-6:30PM

Pumpkin Painting
Friends welcome!!

Snacks & Drinks



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
October 2025**

2025 Blair Crop Hunger Walk is October 19th

1:00 – 3:00pm Lion's Park

We invite First Lutheran members to join this year's walk on October 19th 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 ONLINE at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/blairne>. You may sign up as an individual or form a Team. 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 (and other materials) are available at the Crop display in the narthex and should be turned in on Walk Day. **How can you donate?** For online contributions **DONATE** at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/blairne>. You may designate to a specific individual, 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 October 19th.

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, Pastor Glen: 402-426-4073 or John Mark Nielsen: 402-427-4443. Thank you for your continued support of this FLC annual event!

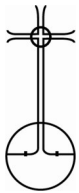
GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS: A really big THANK YOU to all of the folks who came out on God's Work Our Hands day to be a part of the Potter's Field project and for all of the work that was done beforehand that made the day possible. Also thanks to Steve Hytrek of NuView Landscaping for the tree removal (with thanks to the Christian Growth Board for their support) and to Randy Blomker for building the access road. In the beginning it was hard to imagine how the project would go and our progress has far exceeded expectations. The Blair Cemetery staff and City Parks Board officials are also very grateful for what we have done. Now the project is well begun, and we are very optimistic for how this place will eventually be restored to its rightful dignity and grace.



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

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.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2146 WRIGHT STREET
BLAIR, NE 68008
October 2025


THREE RIVERS
 PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Dodge, Saunders & Washington Counties

FLU SHOTS

Fight the Flu, Get Your Shot!

Sunday, October 19, 2025

9:00am-11:30am



First Lutheran Church
2146 Wright St.
Blair, NE 68008





DON'T FORGET!

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

Out of Pocket Cost : \$45