First Lutheran Church ELCA
The Ambassador

November 2026 Volume 26 Issue 11

News From Pastor Bob

A Season of Remembering, Honoring, and Giving Thanks

November is an interesting month. It is a month filled with opportunities to remember, reflect, celebrate, and give thanks.

And, of course, it is the month when we begin to wonder where the year has gone!

November also brings some important days that invite us to pause and think about the lives we live and the blessings we enjoy.

We begin the month with **All Saints Sunday,** a special day in the life of the church when we remember those who have gone before us. Some were parents, grandparents, spouses, friends, teachers, and faithful members of our congregation.

They helped shape who we are today. They taught us lessons about faith, love, generosity, forgiveness, and sometimes patience! Many of them probably never realized how much influence they had on our lives.

I often think that one of the greatest gifts we can give to those who have died is to continue living out the goodness they shared with us. Their lives remind us that faith is not simply something we believe. It is something we pass along.

November also brings a **general election.** Elections have a way of reminding us that we don't all think alike. Sometimes that is putting it mildly!

But perhaps our Christian faith reminds us of something especially important during election season. We can disagree without becoming enemies. We can have different political opinions and still respect one another. And regardless of who wins or loses, we are still called to love our neighbors, care for those in need, and work for the good of our communities.

Our responsibility to one another does not end when the votes are counted.

On **November 11, Veterans Day,** we pause to honor the men and women who have served our country. Their willingness to serve, and the sacrifices made by them and their families, deserve our appreciation. It is also a good day to pray for peace, remembering that one of the greatest ways to honor those who have experienced war is to work toward a world where fewer people must experience it.

November is also **Native American Heritage Month.** It offers us an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the rich histories, cultures, traditions, and contributions of Native American peoples. Here in Nebraska, we live on land with a long and meaningful Native American history. This month invites us not only to appreciate that history but also to listen, learn, and recognize the continuing contributions of Native communities today.

(Pastor Bob's Newsletter Article continued on Page 2)

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And then comes **Thanksgiving!**

I sometimes wonder if Thanksgiving is becoming the forgotten holiday.

We move from Halloween decorations directly to Christmas trees. Christmas music begins playing in stores before we have even finished eating the leftover Halloween candy!

Don't misunderstand me. I love Christmas. But I wonder if we are missing something important when we rush past Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving invites us to stop long enough to recognize how much we have been given.

We have people who love us. We have memories that enrich our lives. We have communities where people care for one another. We have a church where we can worship, laugh, pray, serve, and sometimes even disagree while remaining part of the same family of faith.

Of course, not everyone comes to Thanksgiving with a full heart or a full table. Some are grieving. Some are lonely. Some are struggling financially or facing uncertain futures.

Perhaps that is why Thanksgiving is so important. Gratitude is not pretending that everything is wonderful. It is recognizing that even in difficult times, God's love continues to surround us, often through the kindness of other people.

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *"Give thanks in all circumstances."*

Notice that Paul does not say we must give thanks **for** every circumstance. Some circumstances are painful and difficult. But even in those moments, we can discover reasons for gratitude and opportunities to share God's love.

As we move through November, I invite you to do something simple.

Take a little time each day to think about someone or something for which you are thankful. Perhaps even tell someone how much they mean to you. A telephone call, a note, a visit, or a simple word of appreciation can make a tremendous difference.

And maybe, just maybe, we can leave the Christmas decorations in the boxes for a few more days!

November reminds us that we have much to remember, much to honor, and much for which to be thankful.

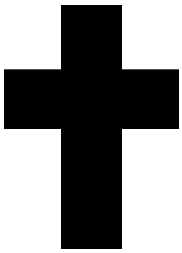
May we be grateful for those who came before us, respectful of those who walk beside us, and generous toward those who will come after us.

And above all, may we remember that every season of life is an opportunity to experience and share the grace of God.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Bob Oleson





We Remember in Our Prayers

Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers

Family of Nile Johnson
Family of Imogene Clements
Vesta Thompson
Chris Gilmore
Mark Becker
Shawn & Terri Powell - healing
Michael Reed - healing
Deb Katt
Marian Thomas
Judy Thompson - healing
Heather Fredericksen
Jeff & Cindy Smith - healing
Sandy Josephsen (Wilke) - prayers for healing
Shelli McGregor - healing and answers
Betty Megrue - prayers
David Latwaitis & Family - peace and healing
Dr. Mariah Meyer LeFeber - prayers
Holly Petersen (Daughter of Marcy Bottorff)
Randy Isaacson - prayers
Debra Harris
Mary Jean Rahlfs - healing
Alicia (Niece of Deb Katt and Mother of Georgia) - prayers
Greg Megrue (Son of Betty Megrue) - serious health problems
Paul Kempcke - healing
Jennifer Novak-Haar - healing
Mary Connely
Sana and Elley Smith
Marcie Ellenberger - healing
Carla
Kari Hernandez - healing
Clint Clausen - prayers
Greg Reed
Mary Frey (mother of Rhonda McMurtry) - prayers
Mick Jensen
Elijah - healing
Wayne & Carolyn Behrend (Parents of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing
Julia Maettes - cancer treatments - prayers & healing
Patrick McKinnis - healing
Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer
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
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
Nebraska Wildfire Victims and all those we name in our hearts.

Notes, Dates, & Reminders

Women's Bible Study

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.

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

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.

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

MWM

MID WEEK MEAL



Mid Week Meal continues!
Volunteers needed!

Contact Information
NEW PHONE NUMBER: ***402-278-9051***

NEW EMAIL: *blairmidweekmeal@gmail.com*

NEW DEDICATED FACEBOOK PAGE: Midweek Meal
Please like and follow and share to get the word out!!

FLC Kids present:
'Twas the Evening of Christmas
December 13th @ 10:15am



Please join us to hear the story of Jesus' birth from our PreK - 5th graders, and experience our Hallelujah Shadow Nativity



Our in-house meal is on Wednesdays @ 5:30-6:15pm!!

Carl & Alice's Welcome Table

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for food, fellowship and fun!!

First Lutheran Church Women's Craft Fair

The annual fundraiser craft fair sponsored by the church women will be Saturday, November 21, 2026, from 9am to 3pm. "It takes a village" to put on such an event. Volunteers are needed to set up tables, bake for the bake sale, serve morning coffee and lunch of pulled pork sandwiches, and the dreaded task of taking down tables and clean up. Sign up sheets are available at the Welcome Center. Please consider helping us this year. Questions may be directed to Rhonda McMurtry, 402-427-3341, or Amy Mommsen, 402-677-3924. Thanks in advance for considering this stewardship opportunity.





Notes, Dates, & Reminders

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.

678 FLC Youth
Loving our Neighbors

Our Service Night projects included:
Tying Quilts
Veterans' Day Cards
Placemats/Posters for NE prison inmates
Chemo Care Kits for patients

Our Service Plunge visits included:
San Andres Food Pantry (south Omaha)
Cards & posters for newly arriving refugees (Lutheran Family Services)



Notes, Dates, & Reminders











Each month, FLC's Stewardship Committee is highlighting a different part of life at First Lutheran and exploring what our giving makes possible. October got us off to a great start! We made giving easier with Apple Pay and QR codes, received donations for the Rod Hansen PMA Memorial Scholarship, found ways to save money and better direct our resources, and celebrated people sharing their time and talents during quilt weekend. Even our kids began asking questions about stewardship during their service project night! For November, we're building on that momentum by focusing on the Children's and Youth Ministries Team and the many ways our congregation helps young people grow in faith.

At FLC, faith grows through LIFE Night, Confirmation, service projects, fundraisers, mission trips, and the relationships all youth build with caring adults. Behind these ministries are people who share their time, gifts, resources, and faith to help the next generation grow.

During our recent service project night at Confirmation, our kids tied quilts, assembled "chemo care kits", created cards for veterans, and decorated placemats for prison inmates. As the youth worked, they asked questions about stewardship and what it means to use what we've been given to help others. It was a great reminder that stewardship isn't just something we talk about—it's something we practice.

This kind of ministry takes a congregation. Teachers, adult leaders, drivers, parents, volunteers, and people who support these activities all play a part. You don't have to teach a class or lead a youth group to make a difference. Sometimes it's as simple as showing up and listening, encouraging a young person, driving a group to a service site in Omaha, or making a meal for youth group.

As we focus on children and youth this November, we invite you to notice the ways faith is growing at FLC and consider how you might be part of it. We especially need adults willing to help with our high school program - "9 to 12 YG"- serve as Faith Mentors with our Confirmation program, and teach and support our young people. The Children's and Youth Ministries Team is looking for new members, as well. It takes many hands and many ideas to keep these programs moving - consider joining them by contacting Erika.

You're never too old to help. The time, attention, and wisdom you share can make a lasting difference in a young person's life. Helping the next generation grow in faith isn't just the work of a few volunteers—it's a ministry we share as an entire congregation.

NOVEMBER 2026 GRATITUDE EVERY DAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THU	FRI	SAT
1 A small thing I am thankful for	2 A color I am thankful for	3 A family member I am thankful for	4 A song I am thankful for	5 A memory I am thankful for	6 A freedom I am thankful for	7 A game I am thankful for
8 A book I am thankful for	9 A friend I am thankful for	10 An animal I am thankful for	11 A goal I am thankful for	12 A food I am thankful for	13 A dream I am thankful for	14 A teacher I am thankful for
15 A smell I am thankful for	16 A treasure I am thankful for	17 A season I am thankful for	18 A thing in nature I am thankful for	19 A possession I am thankful for	20 A promise I am thankful for	21 A time of day I am thankful for
22 An act of kindness I am thankful for	23 A piece of advice I am thankful for	24 A talent I am thankful for	25 A mystery I am thankful for	26 A tradition I am thankful for	27 A memory from yesterday I am thankful for	28 A word I am thankful for
29 A lesson I am thankful for	30 A place I am thankful for					



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FLC KIDS NEWS

A note from Erika:

Happy Gratitude Month!!
I would like to wish all of you a very happy Thanksgiving season! Each November, we are reminded to be grateful for the blessings in our lives.

We have included a Gratitude Calendar in this month's Ambassador for you to use throughout the month. Hopefully, it will help you and your family make a habit of saying thank you to our gracious God all month long!



Much love-
Erika Cada
Dir of Children's & Youth Ministries

November 2026

Next BIG Event:

FLC Kids' Christmas Program
December 13th @ 10:15am



Please join us to hear the story of Jesus' birth from our PreK - 5th graders, and experience our Hallelujah Shadow Nativity

Lesson Schedule:

NOVEMBER 4TH	Baby Moses in the Nile Art & Special Music
NOVEMBER 11TH	Moses in the Red Sea Lesson & Music
NOVEMBER 18TH	Moses in the Red Sea Art & Special Music
NOVEMBER 25TH	NO CLASSES Happy Thanksgiving!!

November Offering:

SAN ANDRES Food Pantry

San Andres Food Pantry

6 of our middle schoolers visited the pantry on October 19, and they would like to collect funds to help the people at San Andres Food Pantry in south Omaha. They need funds to purchase food because the Food Bank is running low on supply so they are starting to go buy their own food to share.

NOVEMBER BIBLE VERSE:

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15

FLC YOUTH NEWS

NOVEMBER 2026



Announcements

2027 ELCA Youth Gathering

2027 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
IMAGINE more

ATTENTION!!

Meeting #3
Sun, Nov 8th
6-8pm - with supper!!
(attendance required
no parents/guardians)

Bring Greenery Order Sheets & Money!!

NO Confirmation or Worship Lab
Wednesday, November 25th
Happy Thanksgiving!!

ADVENT PATH OF LIGHT

Wednesday, December 2nd
6:45 - 8pm
Walk thru 5 stations of light to celebrate hope, peace, joy, love and Christ as we prepare for Jesus' birth on Christmas. Confirmation groups will go through with their group members.

Followed by hot cocoa & cookies!!

Next Fundraisers

HOLIDAY GREENERY!!

Orders Due Nov 4th
Pick up orders anytime after 10am on Nov 25th

COOKIE BAZAAR!!

Sat Dec 12 @ 4-6:30pm
Sun Dec 13 @ 9-12pm

Tell your friends and come shop for all your treats!!

9 to 12 FLC YouthGiving!!



Sun November 15th
5pm in FHall
Sardines to follow

Bring your favorite Tgiving dish!!
Sign up in Youth Nook
Friends are welcome!!

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
November 2026

God's Work; Our Hands

Congregation members are invited to drive by the Potter's Field in the northeast corner of the Blair Cemetery to see the work that First Lutheran Church members have accomplished. The grass seed that was sown and the sod that was laid have done well following the recent rains and complement the crosses that mark some of the graves. The Social Concerns Committee thanks the entire congregation for its support, and Pastor Glen Thomas for inspiring this effort.

Washington County Recycling Center

FLC is scheduled to provide volunteers for the Washington County Recycling Center of Saturday, November 7th from 8:00 to Noon. A signup sheet has been placed on the Welcome Center. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in advance, so that we know we have adequate representation. When First Lutheran is featured on the recycling center's entrance sign, it is a wonderful reminder of our commitment to the community. To truly honor that recognition and match the recycling center's needs, we are looking for a strong turnout of volunteers this month. Let's show our support in full force!"

The Garden Market and Food Cart

The Social Concerns Committee thanks the gardeners who brought produce to the Garden Market Cart and all those who helped themselves and made donations. The money collected will be a part of the congregation's contribution to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

ELCA World Hunger Appeal

FLC will focus on the ELCA's annual World Hunger Appeal at services on November 14th, 15th, and 18th. Please support this annual appeal as you are able.

FINALLY, We Need You!

Do you have a mind for service? Would you like to be a part of a committee who helps make decisions about how we can serve others both in the community and in the world? Consider joining the FLC Social Concerns Committee. We are in need of a couple more individuals to support our efforts including focus areas such as ELCA World Hunger, Garden Market, Have a Heart for Hunger, Washington County Recycling, Oaks Indian Mission, CROP WALK, Bread for the World and more (we are open to new ideas!). We generally meet on the 2nd Monday evening of the month and would love to have you join us! Questions or to say "yes", please reach out to Lynette Jennings (402-278-0164) or John Mark Nielsen (402-427-4443).

Notes, Dates, & Reminders



FLC Youth Holiday Greenery

Sales end Nov 4th

Pickup begins Nov 25th after 10am

(Items located inside east entrance to Fellowship Hall)

All funds raised support FLC Youth and those attending 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering



We are excited to announce the Installation of Pastor Joyce Miller

The installation for Pastor Joyce Miller will be Sunday, November 8th at the 10:15am worship service and Bishop Scott Johnson will be here. We will also have an installation on Wednesday, November 11th at the 6:15pm worship service and Pastor Greg Berger, Assistant to the Bishop will be here.

Please plan to attend!



Daylight Savings Time is This Weekend!

We "Fall Back" one hour. Turn your clocks back an hour before going to bed on Saturday, October 31st!



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