

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

*The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
and in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"
Psalm 29:7-9*

It has become a far too common occurrence this spring.

Every day we see reports of storms and tornadoes and heavy rains and flooding. Our hearts ache for those affected, especially that now we have experienced it in our own community. It is not surprising that the ancients saw the hand of God in the forces of nature. The psalmists saw in nature incredible demonstrations of God's power. What else could account for such fearsome might? In the old pagan religions, such acts of nature were demonstrations of the anger of the gods and were meant to cause fear, to punish the proud and make them cower and tremble.

In the Psalms, in the face of such a God, the residents of the temple of God sing "Glory!"

It doesn't seem all that glorious, the devastation and the injury to people and property. The death. It seems in fact much the opposite, the ugly work of devilish forces and vicious powers.

It is not glorious. There is a hard (inconvenient?) truth about what is happening. This is a destruction we have brought on ourselves. While scientists have long been warning about what will happen in the future if we don't stop climate change, we are already seeing its impact. Droughts are more intense, "normal" weather patterns are shifting. Storms are more frequent and stronger because the planet is warmer than it has ever been, and warm, humid air is the fuel that drives damaging storms. The math here is pretty simple – we are victims of our ignorance and unwillingness to change our bad habits and not some imagined divine retribution.

Sadly, the church is part of the problem. We have turned religion into a pursuit of next-world rewards and forsaken our sacred duty to care for this one. We were made to be stewards of all that God has given us. Instead, we have been abusers of his good gifts, and justified it as part of some grand end-of-the-world scenario. Jesus is coming back to destroy this world, so why should we care?

If we want to talk about sin, perhaps that is where we should begin.

You can't say that of course. It's too social-justice-y, too "woke." Besides, who really wants to do anything about it? The ancients, fearing forces they did not understand, made sacrifices of things they valued to appease forces beyond their control. Maybe we should learn from them. Maybe we should repent from our self-importance and make the sacrifice of faith.

We are not experiencing divine retribution because we have been naughty. Did the cross mean nothing at all? No, we are living out the consequences of actual sin, of breaking the covenant God made with us in creation and putting pride and comfort ahead of gratitude and love. And now, as always, we need God to come and save us. Save us from ourselves.

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Christian Growth Board Update

The Christian Growth Board reviewed scholarship applications from the following students for the 2024 Scholarships:

Hayden Berg
 Eli Cada
 Leah Chance
 Triston Clausen
 Kyle Gross
 Chloe Haberman
 Tanner Jacobson
 McKenzie Lucas
 Claire Mann
 Bria Scott
 Leah Wehrli
 Shelby Wolff
 Dane Larsen
 Mallory Stirek
 Tyler Andersen
 Kolton Hammer
 Emma Cada
 Wesley Gunderson
 Dexter Larsen
 Kendra Loseke
 Rachel Parks
 Jake Stirek
 Sydney Chance
 Sam Lueders
 Sarah Parks

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

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If we wish to turn away from the path of self-destruction then we must sacrifice things that we have come to care all too much about: lifestyles, conveniences, ideologies. And especially our pride. We are going to have to sacrifice the most important thing: the false belief that the world revolves around us and the planet and all of its resources exist for us. We are going to have to humble ourselves and acknowledge that we are merely one part of God's creation, and perhaps not even its most important part.

We are going to have to live for something other than us. That is going to take faith. A kind of faith that seems in short supply these days.

Lord send us your Spirit, that we might live lives worthy of your grace.

-Pastor Glen

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.

Tornado Disaster Relief Fund

As we continue to find ways to serve the needs of our community following the Arbor day tornado, we have created a Disaster Relief Fund at FLC. This fund will be used to provide immediate and long-term assistance to members of our church and others in the community as they seek to recover from the storm. We are grateful for your contributions. Please make sure to mark your check or envelope "Disaster Relief Fund."

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



June 16, 2024

Funeral Coordinators

The Women's Steering Team is in need of TWO people to be Co-Coordiators to facilitate funerals. These people would work with the family to provide workers for the funeral luncheon. The family is responsible for providing all the food. Please contact Sarah Boeka, Coordinator if you are interested in this position or would like more information. sboeka@abbnebraska.com or 402-669-6008.



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

- †Family of Robert Rasmussen
- †Bev Homes - comfort
- †Joan Clements (mother of Merri Dibben and Karen Clements) - healing
- †Rod Hansen - prayers and healing
- †Eric Wulf - healing & prayers
- †Norman Frey (Rhonda McMurtry's dad) - healing & prayers
- †Elijah - healing
- †Josh Foulk - healing
- †Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer
- †Trina Kaiser - healing
- †David Kaiser - healing
- †Helen Garnett (Jim Garnett's mom) - healing
- †June Jenson - prayers
- †Chris Chance - healing
- †Randy Backman - healing
- †Clint Clausen - prayers
- †Mike Boeka - prayers for healing
- †Deloris Matson - early stage lymphoma - healing & prayers
- †John Wick
- †Vivian Walvoord - healing & prayers
- †Betty Wolsmann - healing
- †Florence Larsen - prayers for healing
- †Keith Matzen & family - prayers
- †Dana - healing
- †Clark Jenson
- †Betty Anderson
- †Sunni Wilson (mother of Melody Dubon)
- †Wayne (father of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing
- †Ruth Ann Persson - healing
- †Gordon Soderberg - healing
- †Irene Thorsen
- †Jo Royuk (mother of Anne Chrans) - healing
- †Russ Sonderup - prayers
- †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
- †Patrick McKinnis - continued healing
- †Stacy Thompson Green (daughter of Marcy Bottorff) – prayers & healing
- †Larry Kastrup – healing
- †Leo Aguilar-Hicks – healing for Leukemia
- †Lekura Parish
- †Tornado Victims and all those we name in our hearts.

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

VBS 2024!!

JUNE 24 – 28

Mark your calendars now!!



And, we need YOUR help!!

- Class Leaders (5th grade still open)
- Station Leaders (Simulation Station)
- Class and Station Helpers
- Donate funds for Art, Snacks, & Lunch
- Decorating team to prepare for the week
- Behind the scenes work prior to VBS
- Serve lunch at 12pm

VBS "1st Aid Kit" Supplies Needed!!

The VBS kids will be creating 1st Aid Kits to give others. If you would like to donate to this project, please place any of the following items inside the VBS Tub under the Confirmation Table before June 17th.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Small rolls of cloth tape | • Hydrocortisone ointment |
| • Gauze pads | • Tweezers |
| • Cotton balls | • Instant cold compresses |
| • Safety Pins | • Antibiotic ointment |
| • Antiseptic wipes | • Small scissors |

THANK YOU for helping us care for one another!!

LET'S ROCK THE BLOCK! (RESCHEDULED)

Join Habitat for Humanity to help our neighbors in Blair!
Small repairs, yardwork, painting and more

Saturday, June 15th 8am—1pm

Breakfast & Lunch Provided

Headquarters right here at FLC!!

To volunteer, contact Erika!!

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



We're still having our Garage Sale for the ELCA Youth Gathering Trip!!

Many have asked about the sale due to the Tornado Recovery Center being located at FLC, as well.

All Tornado Victims continue to be welcome at FLC for all their needs. The garage sale will go on as planned. No pricing! Donations encouraged!

To volunteer at the sale, contact Erika!!

Volunteers needed for setup June 9-12, restocking, cleanup, packing leftovers and more.



DATES & TIMES June 13th—15th!!

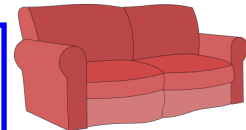
It's time for the FLC Youth Garage Sale!!

Thursday, 6/13 @ 8am—6pm

Friday, 6/14 @ 8am—6pm

Saturday, 6/15 @ 8am—12pm

Funds support FLC Youth attending the
ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 15-21st
AND
FLC Disaster Relief Fund!!



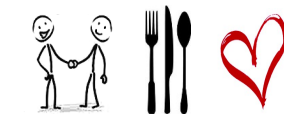
W.O.W. Meal is over for the summer! (In House Meal)

Starting on Wednesday, May 1st 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. meal will resume when the fall Wednesday services start back up.

Martha Sorensen
Tracy Gross

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

MWM **MID WEEK MEAL**



Pickup or Delivery

We serve our meal in the east parking lot
2146 Wright St.

Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm

For Planning

Text # of meals to 402-533-0918
NOT REQUIRED

For Delivery

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

Volunteers **STILL 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 4:45-6pm

Delivery Drivers

You deliver meals to 5-7 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!

May 2024 Update – Building Fund

Dear FLC Congregation,

Building Fund

Great news! The loan through Mission Investment Fund for the Life Center is PAID OFF!! Thanks to your generous support and a large gift received from a member, we were able to satisfy the remaining loan balance at the end of April.

While the loan is paid, the Building Fund will remain open as there are always maintenance items which need to be addressed. More on this to come in the future.

Thank you for your continued support of First Lutheran Church!

Chad Leggott
FLC Treasurer

Burn, Baby, Burn!

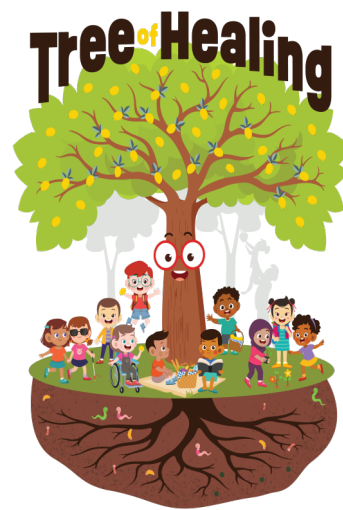
The mortgage has been paid, and now it is time to celebrate. Come out on the evening of Sunday, June 16th and help us celebrate the completion of this hard work as we BURN THE MORTGAGE. We will share fellowship and good food (BBQ!) and CAKE and observe in song and prayer our gratitude to God for his faithfulness to First Lutheran Church. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm, worship to follow.





VBS 2024

Alongside 1st United
Methodist!!



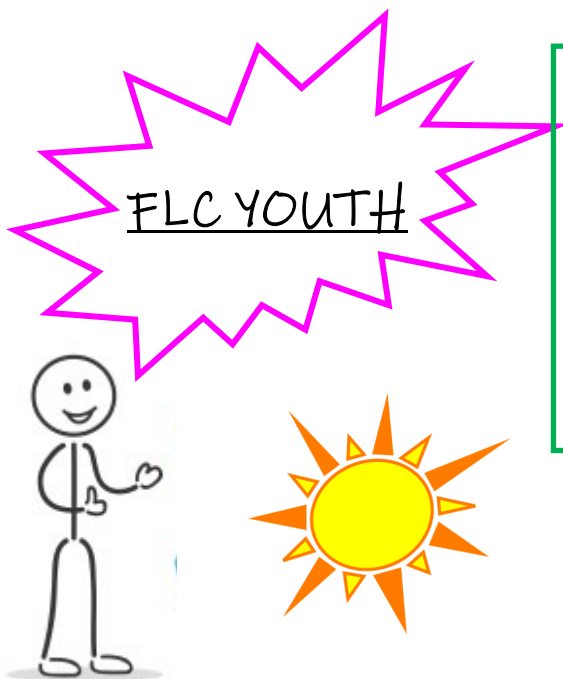
June 24—28

**Go to www.firstlutheranblair.org
to register on our Google Form!!**

*Please register your kids as soon as
possible to help us plan.*

Summer worship

**Saturday @ 5pm in Sanctuary
Sunday @ 8:15am in Sanctuary
Sunday @ 10:15am in LIFE Center**





VBS 2023

Do you love little kids?
Be a VBS Helper!

June 24-28
9am—12pm
Contact Erika!!



New Orleans (NOYG)
Team Bonding #10
June 23rd @ 5pm

Created to be **DISCIPLES**
who love our neighbors

REQUIRED for ALL participants!
Final Info Meeting for all
participants AND parents
July 10th @ 7pm



Service Opportunity!!
June 9th—15th!!

All FLC Youth are welcome to help at the Garage Sale!! Setup, help shoppers, restock, cleanup, pack leftovers, and more!



Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8



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
June 2024**



Courageous Conversations - Due to the devastation of the Arbor Day Tornado, our second Courageous Conversation was postponed, so that First Lutheran staff and members could focus on providing assistance to those who suffered losses from the storm. Consequently, **Courageous Conversation #2 – A Conversation on Domestic Violence has been postponed until Sunday, July 28th at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Pastor Glen will arrange for a speaker from The Bridge. The Committee plans a kick-off for ingathering of items in support of The Bridge for services on July 6th and 7th. More details will follow as the date nears.

June Activities

Bread for the World – Congregation members will have the opportunity to sign letters following services on June 22nd and 23rd to our Congressional representative in support of the current Farm Bill before Congress.

First Fruits and Garden Market – Once again this summer FLC members may share the produce of their gardens. This will begin the weekend of June 29th and 30th with a special “First Fruits” blessing.

Ongoing and Future Initiatives

Washington County Recycling – The next opportunity for FLC to provide volunteers at the Recycling Center will be on **Saturday, August 24th.**

Equal Exchange Products – Teas, coffees and other items are now available in the Fellowship Hall at all times that the church is open. Please place the appropriate amount for items purchased in the money box that is also available.

God’s Work: Our Hands – Committee members discussed possible activities for this activity in September. While no final decision was made, discussion focused on continued assistance to cleaning up following the Arbor Day Tornado and assisting other members who may need assistance with yard and house clean-up projects.

Finally, the Social Concerns Committee wishes to express its gratitude and thanks for the staff and the many members of the congregation who have stepped forward to assist those who have suffered from the recent storms. We especially want to recognize Erika Cada, Vince Krysl, and Pastor Glen for their tireless efforts. Thank you.

NOTES♦DATES♦REMINDERS

Mark Your Calendars!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 2nd! The Nebraska Synod Assembly will come to an inspiring closing worshipping together at 11 am CDT/10 am MDT. We’re thrilled to invite all congregations to participate. Join us as we worship together across the state... from Scottsbluff to McCook to Niobrara to Falls City. First Lutheran will be participating in this special worship service. On the weekend of June 1st and 2nd, we will have ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY at 11:00 am. *(There will not be a Saturday service that weekend)* We are gathering together as God’s people on the Second Sunday after Pentecost this year, committing to Cultivate Love and to continue in our shared mission and ministry as the whole church in the state of Nebraska.

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:

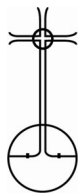
1. Sign up for an available weekend on the flower chart on the bulletin board outside the Sacristy door. Only one family per weekend please.
2. Mark your calendar or leave yourself a reminder! You will NOT receive a reminder notice from the church prior to the weekend you have chosen.
3. You are responsible 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.

Worship Assistants Meeting

It takes a lot of people to conduct our weekly worship services – readers, ushers, communion assistants and more. It is easy enough to do and it is vital to the spiritual life of our community. **If you are already serving in worship** at FLC or if you would like to get involved, please come out on Wednesday, May 29th at 7:00pm, for coffee, cookies and conversation about how we are doing worship together and how we might do better. Come if you are curious and come if you are full of good ideas.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed
Monday, May 27th for
Memorial Day.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2146 WRIGHT STREET
BLAIR, NE 68008
June 2024