

NEWS FROM OUR PASTOR

Jesus said to the disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals ... Luke 10:2-4

I stand in the middle of a room – pretty much any room in either house at this point - and gaze at the piles of boxes, some empty, some opened and half-empty, some still tightly taped shut, unmarked and unremembered, and I wonder, “what have I done?”

I didn't like moving when I was young enough to handle it. I like it much less now. It's a really good thing that this is going to be worth it.

There are a lot of “if only” moments for me these days. If only we had taken the time to prepare, to clear out some of our stuff before we tried to move. If only we had made a better plan, been more organized, thought further ahead, practiced patience. Life right now is a daily reminder that we are not nearly in as much control of ourselves and our existence as we have tended to believe.

I have learned a few hard things:

First, we possess a lot of rather unimportant junk, a cornucopia of stuff we have accumulated over time. Perhaps at the moment it seemed good or important. But these things cling to us, hanging on as if by some mysterious unseen power. It turns out that it is hard to let go of possessions at any time, even when they become so obviously an unneeded burden.

Second, we possess a lot of rarely-used stuff, items that were purposeful at one time, and, we imagine, might be again in the future. That possibility seems to outweigh the cost of keeping them, even if it means moving and storing them for some indeterminate amount of time.

And thirdly, we have the things that we use and will continue to use regularly, what we find to be needful for our daily functioning. The only problem with this stuff is that we used to know where it was and where it should be. But now our environment has changed and we have to figure out the right place for everything so we can get back to normal routines.

And then perhaps the worst thing, amid the overflowing mass of detritus which threatens to bury us, is the unearthing of needs for which we are un- or ill-equipped. The most insane moments of late have been the discovery of what we do not yet have but probably need, certainly want, even as we deal with the overwhelming amount of what we have that we neither need nor want.

But that's life. This conversation is not just about furnishings or household goods, it's about human nature, the fears and anxieties that drive our need to possess, our inability to cast off what we can or adapt what we must, our unpreparedness for what should be foreseeable. Faith, by its best practice for life, requires such skill of us. Grace, at its best, equips us daily for that work.

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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.

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We would do well, if I can borrow the phrase, to take a fearless and searching inventory of our stuff - the practices and notions that fill the boxes of our lives. How much of our beliefs, how much of our pieties, are little more than habits or traditions we hold on to needlessly because we thought once upon a time were good or right and now cling so stubbornly to our souls? And perhaps we ought take measure of what we are holding on to "just in case," assuming a future that may or may not come to pass. And, more importantly, can we evaluate where we are now, this place God has brought us, and assess anew how our assumptions and expectations fit here? In all things we must be present in our new surroundings and understand that we cannot expect the world to bend itself to us. We must be the ones to acclimate to where we are and answer the call of discipleship to GO!

And then – AND THEN – our eyes will be truly opened to what we are missing, what is truly needful, what is possible and hopeful and good. Having cast off what is un-useful, wasteful, even just wrong, we are opened to fresh blessings. Followers of Jesus travel with empty bags and outstretched hands and open minds, workers in the harvest of the Grace of God.

-Pastor Glen

FLC Treasurer's Financial Update for August 2024

Dear FLC Congregation,

We are so lucky to have you as a member of the FLC community. Thank you for your support and continued congregational support. We are happy to provide congregants like you with programs and events that lift us up and remind us of the importance of having a giving spirit.

To continue offering the services that we do, we are here to request an increase in giving throughout the remainder of 2024. Through July, FLC's general fund revenue is below budget by \$16,000. Our remaining year budgeted revenue is \$250,000 (approximately \$50,000 per month). Expenses are holding strong as FLC has spent \$7,000 less than budget. Thank you to the staff as they continue to try and find ways to save costs.

Please take a moment to assess your current financial situation and see if there is a way you can help FLC meet its financial goals.

On behalf of the church council, thank you again for being such an important part of the FLC community.

Chad Leggott
FLC Treasurer

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS



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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ✝ Family of Rod Hansen | ✝ Ruth Ann Persson - healing |
| ✝ Family of Louise Mencke | ✝ Gordon Soderberg - healing |
| ✝ Family of Florence Larsen | ✝ Irene Thorsen |
| ✝ Patrick McKinnis - healing | ✝ Jo Royuk (mother of Anne Chrans) - healing |
| ✝ Angela Ulven - healing | ✝ Russ Sonderup - prayers |
| ✝ Amie Clausen - prayers & healing | ✝ Meredith Dickerson - Alpha Gal Syndrome |
| ✝ LaDona Warren - healing | ✝ Zach - cancer healing/treatment side effects |
| ✝ Sunni Wilson (mother of Melody Dubon) | ✝ Misty - healing and pain relief |
| ✝ J. J. Ihrke & Family (son of Carol Ihrke) - battling ALS | ✝ Marilyn Svendgard |
| ✝ Julia Maettes - cancer treatments - prayers & healing | ✝ Sue Marsh - healing |
| ✝ Bev Homes - comfort | ✝ Merriebeth Ferguson (sister-in-law of Merriellen Bourn) - cancer - healing |
| ✝ Elijah - healing | ✝ Chris Kesling - healing |
| ✝ Josh Foulk - healing | ✝ Alex - surgery & healing |
| ✝ Thomas Uhlman - diagnosed with lung cancer | ✝ Mary LaScala |
| ✝ Trina Kaiser - healing | ✝ Martin Kuhr - prayers and healing |
| ✝ David Kaiser - healing | ✝ Riley |
| ✝ Helen Garnett (Jim Garnett's mom) - healing | ✝ Georgia (great niece of Debbie Katt) -prayers & healing |
| ✝ Chris Chance - healing | ✝ Kyler Reed - healing |
| ✝ Randy Backman - healing | ✝ Scott & Katie Abrams - prayers & healing |
| ✝ Clint Clausen - prayers | ✝ Kay Melby (Angela Ulven and Kari Hernandez's mother) - healing |
| ✝ Mike Boeka - prayers for healing | ✝ Stacy Thompson Green (daughter of Marcy Bottorff) – prayers & healing |
| ✝ Deloris Matson - early stage lymphoma - healing & prayers | ✝ Larry Kastrup – healing |
| ✝ John Wick | ✝ Leo Aguilar-Hicks – healing for Leukemia |
| ✝ Vivian Walvoord - healing & prayers | ✝ Lekura Parish |
| ✝ Keith Matzen & family - prayers | ✝ SSGT Miley Alvarez - Deployment |
| ✝ Dana - healing | ✝ SSGT Rachael Moore & grandma - Deployment - pray to keep her safe and also pray that grandma is well |
| ✝ Clark Jensen | ✝ Tornado Victims and all those we name in our hearts. |
| ✝ Betty Anderson | |
| ✝ Wayne (father of Deb Henson) - prayers for healing | |

The FLC Youth Flamingos are back!!



September 11th—October 16th

The FLC Youth are taking orders!!

Flamingo Flocking — \$25
Flocking Insurance — \$25

Send a friendly flock to your friends
OR
buy insurance to avoid a flock in your own yard!!

Ask Erika for more details!!



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

MWM

MID WEEK MEAL



Pickup or Delivery

We are serving 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

Could you help deliver the MWM 1 time/month?

Please let Erika know if you could give just ONE HOUR per MONTH
Please help us continue to serve our neighbors!!

Choir News

Choir rehearsals will start up again on Tuesday, September 3rd!

We are always looking for new members to join us!

The choir rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the choir room (take the elevator to the second floor and turn left). Regular attendance is encouraged but don't be discouraged if you can't make it each week. You are welcome to join as often as you can. For more information and questions, contact Vince at VKrysl@firstlutheranblair.org

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
Monday, September 2nd for
Labor Day.



NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

FLC Volunteers for Kids!!

PreK—5th Grade Volunteers

Maelie Nelson
Sophie Kempcke
Lainey Bilau
LeLah Filows
Abby Leggott
Ruby Petersen
Hannah Grace
Sandy Yanak
Lynette Jennings
Cindy Smith
Ruth Peterson
Ryleigh Schroeter
Maddie Kempcke
Nicole Sok
Judy Brehm
Melody Dubon

678 Confirmation Small Grp Guides

Jamie Christensen
Nikki Mann
Anne Chrans
Rachel Hambidge
Misty Filows
Amanda Nemechek
Megan Starzyk
Sara Lierman
Jodi Cunard
Emily Petersen
Laura Pike
Joni Clements
Jolyn Stratman
Sara Foulk
Teresa Preister
Ashley Rasmussen
Molly Stirek

678 Confirmation Faith Mentors

Roger Hohensee
Rich & Pat Jorgensen
Judy Thompson
Mary Nathan
Loren Havekost
Barb Triplett
Ann Kobs
Laurie Wick
Jeff Smith
Jim & Heidi Garnett
Randy & Ruth Jensen
Mark & Kay Dickinson

THANK YOU

for sharing time with our kids!!



Did you know you're all famous?

The FLC directory is one of Clara's favorite "books" to read because she knows so many people in it!

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

ELCA Youth Gathering Reflection by Barb Triplett

I'd like to personally thank the members of FLC for their continued support of our youth. I have been fortunate to be an adult leader on the last three trips to Houston, Chicago, and New Orleans. While the destinations change, the core tenets of each trip remain the same. Our young people grow in their faith through bonding of friends that takes place on the bus, nightly devotions in Erika's room, experiencing God every day and night at the mass gatherings, learning about diverse cultures, serving others with our projects of hope and kindness, and sharing their own stories of faith. The trips reinforce the importance of empathy, forgiveness, active involvement, and the power of faith-driven service. Our youth have grown in understanding social justice, serving God, and their role in helping to build a more compassionate world.

These life-changing experiences for our youth were possible only because of your assistance. From greenery sales to pie auctions, Easter breakfast to garage sales—your support is truly recognized and appreciated.

Our congregation benefits from these Youth Gatherings in many ways, including learning from their lived experiences. These young people are the future of our church, and the future is upon us. We learned on these trips that change is not only important but necessary. We can learn to approach change with a faith-driven mindset. Our youth have done that and more in their spiritual maturity and are becoming active contributors in their faith.

I've had the privilege of witnessing first-hand our youth's energy, acceptance, and positivity. This year's gathering focused on five words specially selected to embody the direction of the Lutheran community. I am challenging myself to embrace and live fully these five words. We are created to be:

- Brave
- Authentic
- Free
- Disruptive
- Disciples

I encourage you to join me in this challenge. Together, we can be a multi-generational congregation united in faith, love, and hope.

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, and 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 church office at (402) 426-4073.



Say THANK YOU!!

Please say thank you to your child's teachers and helpers at LIFE Night!

Each and every week, they give one hour to the development of your kids, they love your kids, and they teach your kids about Jesus Christ.

Make sure they know they are appreciated!!

BIRTHDAYS

We celebrate birthdays every week at Opening in the LIFE Center!!

If your child is celebrating their birthday in the coming week, remember to send pennies with them for the church!!

They bring pennies to represent their age (age 8 = 8 pennies) and drop them in the church as we sing Happy Birthday to them!

Summer Bday? Celebrate their 1/2 bday!!

My bday is June 26, so my 1/2 bday didn't work either! So then just pick another special day!!



LESSON THEMES

Sept 4 & 11: My Bible: God's Story of Love
The Bible is God's Word. We'll look at the special collection of stories that reveal God's love for all people.

Sept 18 & 25: My Bible: Promise Made
The Bible tells of God's promises in the Old Testament & God's faithfulness to his people.

LIFE NIGHT CLASS SCHEDULE

6:45pm: Opening all together in LIFE Center
Offering, Birthdays (and 1/2 Bdays!), Prayer

7pm: Week 1—Lesson/Service Project in classrooms
Week 2—Music/Art in LIFE Center/classrooms

7:45pm: All classes dismissed

Children's Offering in September

This month, our offering will be shared with
Feeding America

Feeding America works to get nourishing food to everyone in need, while addressing the root causes of hunger, as well. The food comes from farmers, manufacturers, and retailers.

Feeding America gives 98% of all donations directly to programs serving people in need.



FLC YOUTH
News!!



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**Confirmation
Service Plunge!!**

Friday, Sept 27
8:15am-4:15pm

9-11:30am
Food Bank for the
Heartland

12-3:30pm
San Andres Church
Food Pantry

Sign up at
Youth Nook in the
Fship Hall



Sept 11th—Oct 16th

Do justice, love
kindness, and
walk humbly with
your God.

Micah 6:8



9 to 12 Youth Group

Sunday nights @ 5pm

No meeting on 9/1

This month we will make some plans for our year...
Mini golf? Movie Night? Service Plunge? Hang out? Lock-in?

Text @ahd6ck to 81010 for Student Remind Texts!

Text @gf33f to 81010 for Parent Remind Texts!

COMING SOON!

678 LOCK-IN

Friday, October 4th 9pm-7am

9 to 12 Pumpkin Night

Sunday October 20th 5-6:30pm

Youth Opps

9 to 12

High School Youth Group
Sundays 5-6:30pm

Discussion, dinner, games, & more
NO MTG 9/1

9ers

Wednesdays 6:45pm-7:45pm
Homework, hang out, & snacks

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Confirmation

Wednesdays 6:45pm-7:45pm

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
September 2024**



The Garden Market Continues – Congregation members are invited to bring their produce to share with others on the Garden Cart in the Welcome Center. Those who select produce are invited to make a contribution. The collected funds will go to ELCA World Hunger.

God's Work: Our Hands (Sunday, September 15th) – God's Work: Our Hands is a nationwide effort by the ELCA encouraging members to do something for others during the month of September. This year the Social Concerns Committee and the Church Council have agreed to try something new. **On Sunday, September 15th there will be a single service lasting from 9:00 to 9:45. Members are encouraged to attend BUT dressed to do some work following the service.** The work will include projects in and around the church and parsonage as well as a creative project in the Fellowship Hall. It may also include projects at Good Shepherd Home and the homes of individual First Lutheran members. All projects will be able to be completed within one to two hours. Our hope is that the experience will inspire fellowship and community as we serve others.

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.

NOTES ♦ DATES ♦ REMINDERS

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

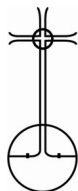
**W.O.W. Meal will be starting back up after
Labor Day! The first W.O.W. meal will be on Wednesday,
September 4th!**

**The menu for Wednesday, September 4th will be Pizza,
Salad, and Ice Cream Sandwiches.**

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.*



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