

First News

April 2025

The Monthly Publication of First Lutheran Church, Portland, ME

Midweek Lenten Services

April 2nd and 9th — Trinity Lutheran Church in Westbrook

6:00pm — Soup & Bread Supper

(FLC will host on April 9th; sign up in the Fellowship Hall)

7:00pm — Holden Evening Service



April 13 — Palm Sunday

10:00am—Worship with Holy Communion and the Procession of Palms

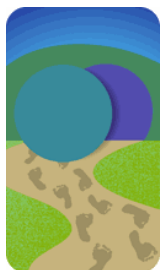


April 17 — Maundy Thursday

7:00pm—Worship with Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar

April 18 — Good Friday

7:00pm—Tenebrae Service



April 20 — The Resurrection of our Lord

10:00am—Worship with Holy Communion

Council Notes

Blessings to each of you as we head into this Easter Season!

We have so much to be grateful for at First Lutheran! We have had a wonderful March with exciting news of a candidate for pastor, the Bishop's visit and luncheon provided by our wonderful fellowship team, our continued amazing services with all the musicians and Steve. How great is our FAITHFULNESS!

As we head into April and beyond, continue to pray for progress with the sale of Washington Street property, your Council as they navigate the business of the church, our candidate Mark Glazener and the final steps of the call process. Remember **May 4th** we will have a special service with a call vote after.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, etc. please reach out and let me know!

Yours in Christ,

Ann Brown

FLC Council President

From Our Call Candidate

Greetings in Christ! My name is Mark Glazener, and I am honored to introduce myself as together we prayerfully consider the possibility of me serving as your pastor. Though this would be my first pastoral call, my heart for ministry has been shaped through my four years at Wartburg Theological Seminary, my internship in Rhode Island, and my years serving in various church leadership roles. I am a Texas native, but I spent most of my adult life in Florida before moving to Dubuque, Iowa to be a residential seminary student. In addition to my studies, I have been actively involved in worship leadership and preaching, community building, chapel staff, and student government here at Wartburg, where I have grown in my calling to shepherd God's people. When I'm able, I love to spend time outdoors enjoying hiking, biking, and photography. My desire is to faithfully preach the Word, build a strong community, and lead with humility and love. I am excited about the possibility of joining your church family, and I am praying for God's guidance in this process. I look forward to the opportunity to get to know you and walk together in faith.

Yours in Christ,
Mark Glazener

Financial Update

FLC had a net operating deficit in February 2025 of \$599. We had expected a deficit of \$204 so the result was \$395 unfavorable to our budget. Our cash reserves remain sufficient to fund our ministry at least through the fall of 2025. Our budget adopted at the semiannual meeting is a deficit of \$28,307.

If you have questions, please contact me by e-mail or on my cell phone, 207-939-0820.

--Ed Daggett, Treasurer

ed.daggett@flcme.org

	Actual February 2025	2025 YTD
Operating Income	\$20,951	\$52,266
Operating Expenses	\$21,550	\$52,449
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(\$599)	(\$183)

Stewardship

The term stewardship is used quite frequently in the public square and marketplace. Leaders of government, corporations, universities and other secular organizations speak of their stewardship responsibilities. Secular institutions understand the term “stewardship” has far greater implications than the management of money, which is only one important aspect of stewardship. Furthermore, an increasing number of people, especially young people, are using the language of stewardship to express their concern about the earth, its inhabitants, and its resources. For many Christians, stewardship is understood as most, if not solely, about parishioner money, their “treasure”. Others have rightly expanded that understanding to include “time” and “talent” as their definition of holistic stewardship.

But the gospel imperative of stewardship transcends these simple characterizations. Stewardship concerns itself with how Christian disciples embrace God's created order with the “mind of Christ” (1Cor. 2:16) and interact with creation and its inhabitants as “ambassadors of Christ” (2Cor. 5:20). The best way to respond to God’s loving generosity is by extending that generosity to everyone and everything everyday. What God does in Jesus’ human life is a magnified version of what happens when one’s personal schedule is rearranged to be with someone who is lonely or despairing, when creative ways are devised into volunteer talents for the benefit of the church, or when family budgets and spending habits are reprioritized in the light of the Gospel. The stewardship question is not “should I do these things?” but rather, “How much should I do?”

Ultimately, stewardship comes down to personal decisions about how each of us lives out our commitment to discipleship and how each of us will use God’s gifts based on our experience, self knowledge and the call and response to God’s grace. We all have felt at least once, in the selfless process of giving of ourselves to someone or something, we discover our own best self.

Blessings on your personal stewardship journey.

Alison Smith

Save the Dates

May 3rd and 4th

Mark your calendars for two important events of the call process. On Saturday, May 3rd we will get to know our candidate Mark Glazener at a Potluck Meet & Greet. This will be a time of fellowship and good food and an opportunity for Mark to meet us. Watch the bulletins and your emails for more details as we get closer to the date.

On Sunday, May 4th, all members of First Lutheran are encouraged to attend the 10:00 am Worship. The service will be led by Pastor Bill Barter, and our call candidate will give the sermon. Immediately following worship, there will be a special congregational meeting where we will vote on whether or not to call Mark Glazener as our next pastor.

Please plan on attending these two important events as the Holy Spirit leads us forward to the next chapter of our ministry.



Folks will once again have the opportunity to participate in a prayer vigil on Holy Saturday, April 19.

Watch the bulletins and your email for more details on how you can join in.

Our Community Involvement

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DELIVER PALM SUNDAY FLORAL BOUQUETS

The Outreach Committee is organizing the annual delivery of small floral arrangements to church family members who are currently homebound. And we would welcome your assistance! We will assemble the bouquets on Saturday morning, April 12th, and deliver them that day or on Palm Sunday. So join us on Saturday (no floral arranging experience necessary) or pick up a bouquet or two to deliver on Sunday. Addresses and contact numbers for the recipients will be provided.

Special thanks to Joy Carr and Marlene Christensen for their indispensable support for this project.

Quilting Ministry

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! Twenty- four folks came together on National Quilting Day to work on quilts for the Lutheran World Relief! By combining their efforts, they completed nine quilts that were immediately placed in the sanctuary along with eighteen quilts the Quilting Group had already finished. All were blessed the next day during the church service.

A special thanks to Joy Carr for taking care of the delicious food for the luncheon and to John and Susan Bollman for plating and setting up the meal. Thank you, Andy, for helping set up and being our official photographer and thank you, Gene, for getting the Thrivent grant which provided essential quilting supplies as well as the lunch. It truly was a productive, fun and heartwarming day.

We would like to finish a few more quilts in the next few months so if you want to help assemble quilts, please join us at one of our regular quilting Saturdays from 9:30am to Noon — April 5 and May 17. (Note the changes in our regular two meeting a month schedule.)



Completed quilts in the sanctuary to be blessed before being sent to LWR.

Give a Child a Chance

Our Give a Child a Chance ministry began in 2014 because of our belief that preschool education was an important goal for future success in school for families of children who would otherwise be unable to afford this early childhood education experience.

Today we continue our commitment to these children and their families, and as you know, we depend on fundraising activities and donations to meet our mission.

We are selling RaiseRight gift cards at our table in the Fellowship Hall the first two Sundays in April. Cards are available for direct sales, too. If you are enrolled in our RaiseRight program, you are free to order gift cards at anytime. Stop by and ask us how to enroll!

Get ready for a trip with gift cards...get ready for spring cleanup with gift cards...get ready for spring vacation with gift cards. Thank you for helping us help them!

For more information, contact us at ec-fund@flcme.org or call (207) 797-2525

Team members: Susan Bollman, Ann Brown, Lynn Carey, Karen Johnson, Lynn Macken, Colleen Taylor.

Education Team News

The Education Team did not hold any events during the month of March. Our next event will be on Sunday, April 6th after worship. We will have an extended coffee hour and a Cross Generational group activity. This will be similar to our September event with some special fun worked in. We encourage all members to stay for the 30 minutes or so and dive into the lessons and Gospel and connect with each other in a bit of a different way.

A spring Bible Study focusing on the life and experiences of David will begin in early May. There is nothing to purchase for this study and we plan to offer it again on Wednesdays from 10am to 11am, with a Zoom option available.

Besides the April 6th event, the Education Team's next upcoming events include:

- Saturday, May 3rd — supporting the Children's Program spring carnival from 10:00am to 2:00pm — come have a hot dog and some fun!
- Wednesday, May 14th — Pizza dinner and games with the Children's Program
- Wednesday, June 4th — Cookout with the Children's Program

Members of the Committee continue to be committed to education and involvement of all members in this aspect of our church. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, May 19th at 7:00pm via Zoom. All are welcome.

Over 60 members stayed after church on March 16th for a special brunch as we welcomed Bishop Nathan Pipho to FLC for the first time. Bishop Pipho introduced himself and talked about his road to becoming the newest bishop of the New England Synod. He also talked about the Synod's plans for the future, and he answered questions.

Many thanks to the Fellowship Team for providing a delicious meal, and to Thrivent for providing action team funds.



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.

2 Corinthians 1: 3-4



Abbott Knowles
 Ken Carr
 Kay & Bob Ahlquist
 Susan Bollman
 Doris Kilfoil
 Our Call Candidate—
 Mark Glazener
 Pat Graham
 Nick McLellan &
 family
 Steve & Debby Zeigler
 Jeanne Twomey
 Ashley Sawyer
 Doris Kilfoil
 Fay Brown

The family of George
 Allen
 Al Lorenz
 Rick Thomas
 PJ Johnson
 Pope Francis
 Victims of racism and
 hate, especially those
 in the LGBTQIA+
 Community
 Those who are
 unhoused
 Those who are anxious
 and scared
 Camp Calumet



e-mail prayer chain

Prayer is such an important part of our daily Christian lives, and sometimes extra prayers are needed. If you have any special prayer requests and you would like to have our "Prayer Warriors" praying as well, please send an email.

prayer-request@flcme.org



April 10	Ann Brown
April 12	Ken Conant
April 15	Madi Leo
April 17	Bud Hedblom
April 30	Dylan Alvord



Is someone in your family graduating this spring? We would love to celebrate their accomplishment in either the June or Summer newsletter.

Let us know where they are graduating from and what their future plans might be.

You can send an email to news@flcme.org or call the church office.



Caring for God's Creation

Earth Day
 April 22





Easter Flowers

You can help adorn the altar for Easter morning by purchasing a plant in Celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior!

You can do this in two ways:

1. You may purchase a plant anywhere and bring it to the church.
(Please put your name on it and let the church office know so the names can appear in the Easter bulletin.)

2. You can order one for yourself or in honor or in memory of a loved one through the church. (We will place and order with Skillin's Greenhouse.)

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office.

Place your check in an envelope in the offering plate marked Easter Flowers or mail it to the church.

Cost:

Lilies (\$10.90) per 6" pot

Tulips (\$8.95) per 6" pot

Daffodils (\$10.90) per 6" pot

The deadline to order flowers is April 13th.

(Plants can be picked up following the Easter worship service.)

Please join First Lutheran Children's Programs for a day of fun. All are welcome!

Spring Carnival

May 3, 2025

10:00am to 2:00pm

Rain or Shine

First Lutheran
Children's Programs
132 Auburn St. Portland, Me

Come enjoy!

Bounce House

Face Painting

Gel Tattoos / Hair Tinsel
Cotton Candy/Freeze Pops

Goodie Bags

Carnival Games

Relay Races

Music

Corn Hole

Burgers, Dogs & Chips

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
132 AUBURN STREET
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103-2145**

April 2025



First News is a monthly publication of First Lutheran Church. Articles can be submitted to the church office, or by email to news@flcme.org.

Worship Service is at 10:00 am

Church Office Hours are Monday thru Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm (797-2525)

www.FLCME.org

STAFF

Transition Contact Pastor.....Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Licensed Lay Minister.....Steve Barmore
Church Secretary.....Joleen Knowles (joleen.knowles@flcme.org)
Church OrganistBrenda Morneau (brenda.morneau@flcme.org)
Director—FLC Children’s Community Ministry.....Sherryl Eastman (flcpinfo@flcme.org)

OFFICERS

President.....Ann Brown
Vice-President.....Bill Mills
Secretary.....Ken Conant
Treasurer.....Ed Daggett
Financial Secretary.....Cheryl Cyr



First Lutheran is a Reconciling In Christ congregation. Here we believe there is a place for **Everyone**.