

# First News

May 2025

*The Monthly Publication of First Lutheran Church, Portland, ME*

## Call Weekend

### May 3rd & 4th

You are invited to join us for two important events in the call process this first weekend in May.

**Saturday, May 3 at 5:00pm**

We will get to know our candidate, Mark Glazener, at a Meet & Greet Potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a time of fellowship and good food and an opportunity for Mark to meet us and introduce himself.

**Sunday, May 4 at 10:00am**

Pastor Bill Barter will lead our Worship service, 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.

All members of First Lutheran are encouraged to attend these events, especially the Sunday service and meeting, as we trust in the Holy Spirit to guide us in this important decision.



# Council Notes

As we head into May, we are so excited to start the weekend with the visit from our perspective candidate, Mark Glazener. I pray that the weekend goes well, and that we recognize the path that God has put us on. This transition has been a challenging one for many reasons, and I continue to be hopeful that we are nearing an end to that transition time and beginning a new and bright future.

There continues to be so many opportunities for people to volunteer at First Lutheran. If you would like to get involved, please reach out, so that we can help you find the best place for your talents. We always have needs for readers, communion assistants, hospitality, AV team, worship and music, as well as any of our many active committees.

Thank you to everyone that helped make our Holy week wonderful. We appreciate all the extra time that was put in to making the entire week special, especially our Easter Sunday service. It was wonderful seeing so many people!

As always, if you have any suggestions, questions, or just want to talk over something, please reach out. We are always open to new ideas and look forward to hearing from you.

Ann Brown  
Council President

## Shout Outs



Shout out to Ken Carr for his many years of dedication and hard work leading the audio and video ministry. Ken is taking a much earned retirement from this ministry. Before his retirement, he passed on a wealth of wisdom and an abundance of well documented files to the rest of the team. Thank you to Manny Avalos, John Bollman, and Andy Durluo for stepping up to learn, document, and implement the new presentation software. All the time you take to prepare the screen presentations for every service is greatly appreciated.

## Financial Update

FLC had a net operating surplus in March 2025 of \$19,452. We had expected a surplus of \$18,256 so the result was \$1,186 favorable to our budget. The large inflow was the result of a large special gift budgeted and received in March. Our cash reserves have been bolstered by the large surplus and are sufficient to fund our ministries through the first half of 2026. Our budget adopted at the semi-annual 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](mailto:ed.daggett@flcme.org)

	Actual March 2025	Actual YTD
Operating Income	\$45,373	\$97,638
Operating Expenses	\$25,921	\$78,370
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$19,452	\$19,268

## New Beginnings

As we head into the month of May, nature is promising us a new beginning. Trees are starting to bud, daffodils are popping up, and the grass is turning green. We can look forward to warmer weather and more hours of daylight.

Much the same can be said for the church. As we have finished our journey through Lent and celebrated Easter Sunday, I look forward to the new beginning that is promised through Jesus' resurrection. Jesus' death and resurrection assure us that our sins are forgiven and that our slates are wiped clean. While our sins are always forgiven when we repent, it feels like a new start after Easter.

There is also hope and excitement at First Lutheran heading into May. We have a pastoral candidate, Mark Glazener, who will be visiting us with the hopes that he will become our new pastor. This to me is another new beginning. A chance to learn and grow together in our faith and service to God.

Spring is offering us New Beginnings in many ways. Praise be to God!

Blessings,

Steve Barmore, LLM

## Staff Celebration

At First Lutheran we are blessed to have three staff members—Joleen, Brenda and Ed—who consistently go above and beyond when it comes to supporting us here at FLC. They not only provide the key work to allow us to worship the Lord, but they also provide incredible insight, kindness and warmth to make our services and church life, work well.

As the Mutual Ministry team, one of our responsibilities is to check in with the staff and offer them support. We would like you to join us in honoring these individuals on Sunday, May 4th. We will have a celebration cake and cards for folks to sign and add memories or specific thanks, as each person feels so inclined. We intend to make this an annual event and hope you are able to join us and make this initial celebration one to remember.

Coleen, Sarah and Gene

## Education Team News

Many thanks to the participants in our after church Cross Generational Event on April 6th. We enjoyed some learning and fun as each group explored the Gospel lessons, learned a bit more about each group member and had a bit of fun with some eggs. Our next event will be on **Saturday, May 3rd** where we will join the Children's Program for their outdoor spring event. It will be held from 10am to 2pm. Please feel welcome to come for any or all of this fun time with the children and staff who are working in our facilities every day.

A spring Bible Study focusing on the life and experiences of David will begin on **May 7th**. There is nothing to purchase for this study and it will last seven weeks, through June 18th. Nancy Houlihan will lead this study, with Gene Kucinkas supporting. We will meet in the Centennial Room and also offer Zoom for folks who are interested.

There is a special area youth meeting being held at First Lutheran on **Sunday, May 18th** from Noon to 2pm to make trail mix for Preble Street. We'll be using the Hospitality room and kitchen. We encourage all youth from First Lutheran to join in.

The Education Team's next upcoming events include: **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 **May 19th** at 7 PM via Zoom. All are welcome.

# Our Community Involvement

## May Outreach Project

The Maine Veteran's Home in Scarborough is so appreciative of the generosity of First Lutheran Church last year. They were very excited when we reached out to them again this year.

They would appreciate our help with a fun project for the Veterans this spring. They have six raised planting beds at wheelchair height, and they need some supplies for planting and for the garden.

We will be accepting donations on the first two Sundays in May. Look for the clothesline full of tags for specific items needed.

We want to honor our veterans in a fun and special way. Thank you for your support!

If you have any questions, please see Susan Bollman.



## Quilting Ministry

The quilting group is tying up loose ends! Susan Bollman and Colleen Taylor dropped off 15 quilts they made for the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital ICU. Each patient treated in that hospital unit receive a quilt and a stuffy and we pray our quilts provide some care and comfort to the young patients.

Additionally, work is wrapping up on the Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts. Two more quilts were completed in April bringing the total to 29! We hope to complete one more quilt before they are delivered to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Brunswick. From there the quilts are shipped to the warehouse in Maryland where they will be processed to ship wherever they are needed both domestically and internationally.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in another successful quilting year. Please consider joining us on the first and third Saturday mornings from 9:30am to Noon as we begin to plan and create more beautiful quilts.

Future quilting dates: May 17, June 7 & 21, July 5 & 19, August 2 & 16.

## Thank you

A talented group met on a snowy Saturday morning and created over a dozen beautiful bouquets that, along with cards, were delivered on Palm Sunday to our homebound members and friends. Thanks to those that created the bouquets, and special thanks to everyone that delivered the flowers. As Holy Week began, this was a wonderful way to show our love to those who aren't able to attend church in person.





# Give a Child a Chance

## **LOOKING BACK**

Karen Johnson saw a need. With the support of the First Lutheran church leadership and congregation, she held her first meeting in June of 2014. Her intent was to establish a self-sustaining team to raise funds to provide preschool tuition support for the First Lutheran Children's Program. Besides herself, her core team members were Cheryl Alvord, Jan Bennett (Council Liaison), Wendy Carey, Doug Davis, Lori Dick, Joan Mills, Mike Pleacher and Casey Welch.

## **SINCERE APPRECIATION**

Through Karen's leadership, GACAC has contributed \$79,000 in tuition support these past 11 years. It will be close to \$100,000 after this year's contribution. Her unwavering dedication to this Ministry is beyond remarkable. The Congregation's generous support to GACAC is a testament to the value placed on the support of the children in need in our community, thanks in large part to Karen's vision and initiative.

## **TIME FOR TRANSITION**

Karen has decided to take a step back and transition her leadership role to the GACAC team. She has handed off her responsibilities but will continue her support and participation. Our team members are Ann Brown (Chair), Susan Bollman, Lynn Carey, Karen Johnson, Lynn Macken (Raise Right Coordinator) and Colleen Taylor. We offer our heartfelt thanks to Karen for your 11 years of dedication to this ministry!

## **CONTINUING THE LEGACY**

We are committed to assure that Give a Child a Chance continues to support the children in need in our community by providing tuition support for our FLC Children's Program. Although we can't help all children, we are grateful for the opportunity to help the ones that we can, by giving them access to the experience that will enable them to grow and develop to their full potential.

You can help by buying Raise Right gift cards on the first two Sundays of each month. Remember that our Greater Portland Family Promise families and our Maine Needs Charity can always use gift cards for Hannaford, Target, Walmart or Shaw's. Don't forget Home Depot and Lowe's for your spring projects. Also, how about gift cards for your graduates? Of course, your personal donations and participation in other fundraising projects are always greatly appreciated!

Thank you for your prayers and support for our Give a Child a Chance ministry.

Contact us at [ec-fund@flcme.org](mailto:ec-fund@flcme.org) or call (207) 797-2525.

## ***Once Upon a Holiday Fair***

Although First Lutheran's fair is very much a Christmas fair it was named a Holiday fair because it is held a week before Thanksgiving. We are thankful for the generous support that the Fair receives year after year not only from the many involved members, but also by the community's support. We are especially grateful that the Fair was not established to support our operating budget, but to have 100% of the proceeds benefit those in need (initially) for fuel assistance as the rising cost of oil was approaching \$5.00 a gallon. But as the amount raised has grown and cost of everything has increased, the monies now support members, their families, friends, and our neighbors in need throughout the year.

The Fair Committee will meet Sunday, May 18th following worship in the Hospitality Room to start the excitement for the upcoming November 22, 2025 Fair. It truly is a wonderful way to meet and get to know others as we work on a common goal. Please join us!

Phyllis Kilfoil, Lorna Leo and Barb Daggett

## FELLOWSHIP MEETING

June 1, 2025  
Hospitality Room

We will meet following Worship to plan the July 13 Picnic at Fort Williams and other events. All are welcome to join in the planning.

For more information, speak to Lorna Leo or Barb Daggett.



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](mailto:news@flcme.org) or call the church office.

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**

## Remembering Pope Francis

We join our Catholic brothers & sisters in grief at the passing of Pope Francis on Easter Monday. The liturgical resource the ELCA uses includes this prayer:

A prayer of Pope Francis

*Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your kingdom of justice, peace, love, and beauty. Amen.*

Click [here](#) to read the statement by Bishop Eaton on the death of Pope Francis.


*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  
 Michael McIver  
 Kay & Bob Ahlquist  
 Susan Bollman  
 Bev & Mike Beliveau  
 Doris Kilfoil  
 Our Call Candidate—  
 Mark Glazener  
 Pat Graham  
 Nick McLellan &  
 family  
 Steve & Debby Zeigler  
 Ashley Sawyer  
 Doris Kilfoil  
 Al Lorenz

Rick Thomas  
 PJ Johnson  
 All those who give  
 motherly care & love  
 Victims of racism and  
 hate, especially those  
 in the LGTBQIA+  
 Community  
 Those who are  
 unhoused  
 Those who are anxious  
 and scared



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](mailto:prayer-request@flcme.org)



- May 1 Betty Klassen  
Katie Lamb
- May 4 Andy Durloo
- May 7 Andrew McIver  
Matt Dressel
- May 8 Colleen Taylor
- May 12 Braden Lamb
- May 17 Sue McIver
- May 18 Jennifer Hazelwood
- May 24 Allen Conant
- May 25 Joy Carr



*Thank You!*

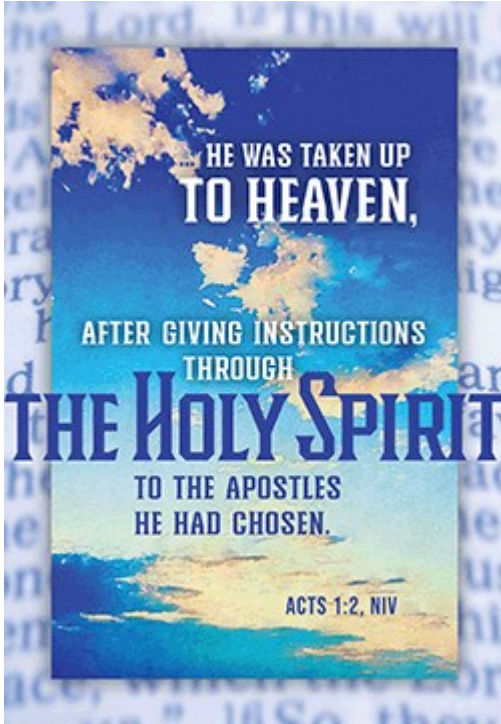


We are grateful to everyone that worked so hard to make Holy Week and Easter so special. We especially give thanks to:

- Brenda for her dedication and for leading us in music
- Our Choir, Ensemble Singers and Bell Choir
- Kris Conant and Sarah Morneau for providing special music on Easter Sunday
- The Worship Team for planning all the services
- The Tech Team for all their expertise
- Those who decorated and prepared the church
- The Fellowship Team for providing the special Easter coffee hour

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

**May 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](mailto: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](http://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 Organist .....Brenda 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**.