

First News

November 2024

The Monthly Publication of First Lutheran Church, Portland, ME

Once Upon a Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 23rd

8:00am to 1:00pm

Please join us for a wonderful Holiday Fair! Be greeted into a Christmas Wonderland featuring live music, with lots to explore.

Many Thanksgiving and Christmas items are featured in the following areas:

All that Glitters – has lovely jewelry and fashion scarfs that will catch your eye.

Bake House – is where you'll find all those festive goodies such as pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, whoopie pies and other dreamed about confections as well as jellies, jams and pickles.

Book Nook – Not only are there books for every age — including a nice selection of children's books — there are games, movies, and puzzles.

Café – Our menu includes delicious breakfast and luncheon items. Plan to stop by and visit with friends for lunch.

Chic, Unique & Antique – There are collectibles, antique items, small furniture, glassware and dishes waiting to be discovered.

Garden Shoppe – has returned and will have Thanksgiving arrangements, as well as Christmas decorations and wreaths, and live potted plants.

Grateful Greeters – will be at the door to warmly welcome you!

Handicraft Boutique – Wait until you see all the wonderful crafts that have been made by the talented folks at First Lutheran. There will be many home decorating and gift items to choose from.

Holiday Henna – New this year is Holiday Henna! Stop by for a beautiful temporary henna tattoo.

Kids' Korner – This kids-only room has new and gently used items for everyone on their holiday shopping list.

Kozy Korner Knits – will include beautifully knit and crochet scarves, mittens, adult and youth hats, and other items just in time for the cool weather.

Sweet Shoppe – is a hotspot for homemade candy! Line up for fudge, peanut butter balls, peppermint patties, peanut brittle and more.

Council Notes

Faithfulness Through the Ages...the theme chosen for our 150th Celebration in October. It seems appropriate as we recognize the nature of God's promises and the steadfastness of the congregation in our faith journey. God has been faithful in the past and we continue to trust in His continued faithfulness in the future. We as your council continue to plan for the future, work to continue our mission, and strive to support the congregation in all our needs. We are grateful for the many people who have been a supply pastor for these last few weeks, and will trust this path until a clear match is made with our future pastor. The Washington Avenue lot sale has been put on a soft hold, as the city is making changes to the zoning regulations and the current thought is that the changes will only benefit our situation. On October 20th, a special Congregational meeting was held to discuss a change to the Constitution which would allow our new pastor a vote on church council. Council discussed this topic for two months making sure we were clear on all the issues related to this change. In a written ballot, the change was approved with a vote of 23 approving the change, 4 not approving the change, and 3 abstaining.

As we move forward towards the next big milestone anniversary, what do you want our history to be? What can we work towards together? November brings our fall fair, educational and outreach opportunities, and more. If you have any ideas or issues in the church you would like to discuss with Council, feel free to reach out. We are happy to talk with you, bring suggestions forward, and work together to continue to support our church future.

I encourage everyone to reach out to friends, family, former members and invite them back to First Lutheran. I am happy we celebrated the 150th milestone in such a big way, and look forward to what will be said about our history at the next big celebration!

Ann Brown, Council President



Financial Update

FLC had a net operating surplus in September 2024 of \$2,958. We had expected a deficit of \$2,086 so the result was \$5,044 favorable to our budget. Our monthly expenses were well under budget resulting in the large favorable variance. Our cash reserves remain sufficient to fund our ministry at least through the end of 2024. Council and the Finance and Stewardship committee continue to explore ways to increase receipts and reduce expenditures as we seek an improved financial position to support calling a full-time pastor.

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 September 2024	2024 YTD
Operating Income	\$27,451	\$256,154
Operating Expenses	\$24,453	\$244,314
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$2,958	\$11,880



Twenty-five years ago, a special offering was collected during the anniversary celebration. We kept that tradition going this year for our 150th anniversary.

During our anniversary weekend, an offering was collected to help those impacted by the two recent hurricanes. Over \$1,000 was raised, thanks to your generosity.

The offering will be sent to Living Waters Lutheran Church in Port Charlotte, Florida. (This is the church Lauren Cormier attends during the winter.) They will be able to direct the funds to those that need it the most.

Thank you to all that gave to this special offering. We will continue to keep in our prayers all those in the Southeast that were affected by these two devastating storms.

November Days to Remember



November 1



November 3

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour!



November 5



November 11



November 24



November 28

Our Community Involvement



The Williston Immanuel Shelter has officially closed. The United Methodist Conference has

voted to give the former Clark Memorial parsonage to Greater Portland Family Promise. They will be applying for the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) Long Term Solutions to Homelessness grant to renovate the house to turn it into a 2 or 3 multi-family house. It will continue to be used for transitional housing for up to 6 families and 24 individuals. Hope Community Church in South Portland will also apply for this same grant to convert their lower level into transitional housing for up to 6 families, 30 individuals.

NOVEMBER IS OUR MONTH

November is our month at FLC to support GPPF as a whole. We are one of 15 churches that support GPPF. This support is not specifically for Elza and her family, but for all families that are supported by GPPF. Ideas to support GPPF include: quarters for laundry, gift cards to Hannaford and Walmart, and monetary donations. If you would like to purchase gift cards, please consider purchasing them through the Give a Child a Chance/Raise Right program. If you would like to give a monetary donation, you can mail it directly to:

Greater Portland Family Promise
PO Box 11048
Portland, Maine 04104

UPDATE ON ELZA AND HER FAMILY

Elza is back to work at Whole Foods and is hoping to be considered for full-time employment. Anuria is a freshman at Portland High, Vitoria is a 3rd grader, Evelyn is 3 1/2 years old and Yannice is 2 1/2 months old. All girls are doing well. Elza is piecing together childcare and if you are interested in helping, please let Wendy Barmore or Alison Smith know. Thank you again for your gifts of gift cards to Walmart and Hannaford. We purchase non-food items for Elza with the Walmart cards and Elza uses the Hannaford cards for food.

Thank you very much for your prayers and support. We are making a difference in the lives of these families.

Wendy Barmore, Alison Smith, Candice Bredbenner

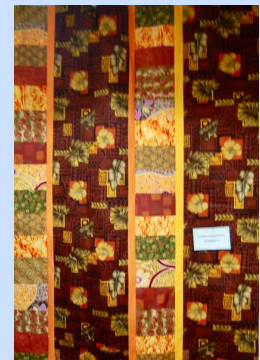
Quilting Ministry

Last year, Lutheran World Relief expanded its global mission to include people of North America as well as those living abroad. By doing so they have been able to quickly assemble and send shipments of quilts and personal care kits to recent hurricane victims. We at FLC are proud to play a small part in this mission and continue to sew love and care into each quilt we create.

Veteran's Day is approaching and to show our gratitude for their sacrifice and service, nine members of FLC sewed over 40 lap quilts for the men living in the same unit Bob Mitchell lived in at the Maine Veteran's Home in Scarborough. The quilts were personally presented to these deserving veterans on October 24. It was an emotional and fulfilling afternoon of remembrance. Thanks to Susan Bollman for spearheading this important project and to the folks who used their time and talents to create these beautiful quilts: Susan, Joy, Barb, Sue, Kris, Trena, Colleen, Francie, Mickie, and Trena's friend, Carol. Also thanks to Carol, Lynn, Trena, Colleen and others for helping with the presentation.

The quilting group has decided to scale back the November and December meetings to the first Saturday of the month due to the holidays. However, work on next year's Mission quilts continues with 13 already completed! We are almost out of batting (the filler) so if you can help us purchase more in 2025 by writing a Thrivent Grant we would be most appreciative; please contact either Joy or Colleen. Also, please notice the quilt hanging in the entry way created especially for the Holiday Fair by Colleen and quilted by Joy.

Anyone is welcome at our next quilting mornings on November 2 and December 7, 2024 from 9:30am to Noon. Come help assemble mission quilts — no experience necessary!



Education Team Update



On October 20th, we held our second 9am Cross Generational Event. Lorna, Sarah and Madi guided two groups through several crafts in preparation for the Christmas Fair. The teams also reflected upon this week's Gospel and how it applied to our lives in school, home and work. Thanks to all who participated. Our next event will be held on Sunday, November 17th. More information will be coming about that event.

We have had limited success in encouraging youth to read at services this year. If you are a young person and would like to read, please know that we can fit you in on any given Sunday!

The Education Team is coordinating the Photo Directory. Two youth, Josh and Matt, have helped with taking photos on Sundays. There is still time to get your picture in the directory—speak with Gene Kucinkas.

All area ministers have been contacted and members of First Lutheran have been invited to attend a Bible Study with Pastor Amanda in Yarmouth. Two other church lay members are considering offering Bible Studies.

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, November 18th at 7pm via Zoom. All are welcome.

Give a Child a Chance

THE HOLIDAYS ARE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

- Plan ahead to do your Holiday shopping with RaiseRight Gift cards.
- Give RaiseRight gift cards as Christmas gifts.
- Purchase RaiseRight gift cards from Hannaford, Walmart, Target for our Family Promise Family who we are supporting and for gift giving.
- RaiseRight sales will be held the first and second Sundays in November.

UPDATE ON “100+ WOMEN WHO CARE” DONATION

We received an additional \$275 from 100+ Women who Care since our last report. We have now received a total of \$3795.00 from this philanthropic Greater Portland organization! Thank you, 100+ Women who Care...100% of this donation will be used for tuition support. This support helps neighborhood preschoolers who would otherwise be unable to attend our FLC early childhood education programs.

Questions? Contact any Team member: Ann Brown, Susan Bollman, Karen Johnson, Lynn Macken, Colleen Taylor.

ec-fund@flcme.org

150th Anniversary Celebration

2024 marks the 150th anniversary of First Lutheran Church, and we celebrated this milestone with a potluck dinner and program on October 26th, and a special worship service and coffee hour on October 27th.

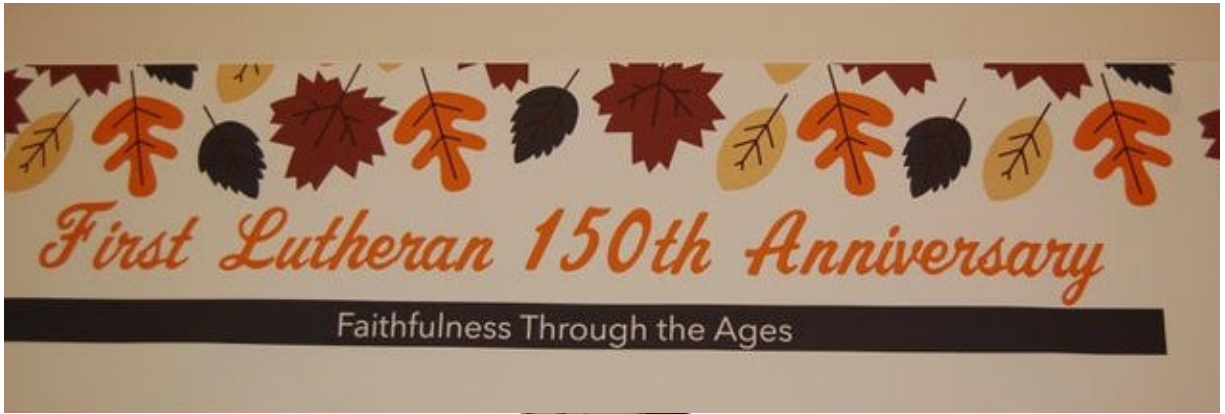
This anniversary celebration could not have happened without the work of dozens of faithful servants. Special thanks to: Gene Kucinkas for leading the 150 Anniversary planning team; the Fellowship team for making sure the dinner was a success; Steve Barmore for leading the program on Saturday evening; Ken Conant for his work preparing the slideshow and compiling the history of the last 25 years; the Tech Team for all their work; all the choirs and musicians; the Worship team for planning the Sunday service; and Pastor Amanda for leading us in worship.



Some of the beautiful centerpieces created by Alison Smith for the Saturday event.



Ken leading us in the Trivia contest



Brenda leading us in the hymn-sing



Ann & Gene accepting the Proclamation from the Portland City Council on October 21

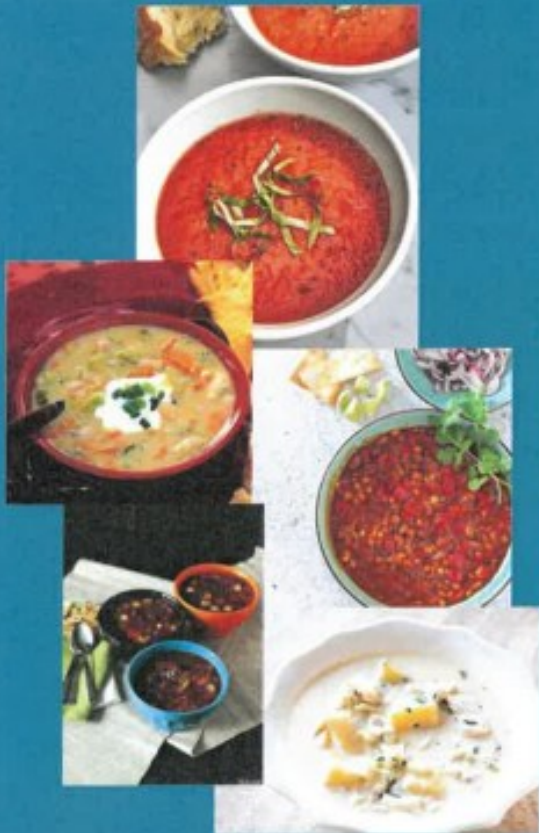


The maineblend singing group during Sunday worship



Meal includes all you
can eat:

Choice of Soups
Bread & Crackers
Hot & Cold Beverages
Dessert



Saturday, November 2, 2024
In Recognition of

World Food Day

Altrusa International of
Portland is hosting our

**16th Annual
Empty Bowl Meal**

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

First Lutheran Church

132 Auburn Street, Portland ME

Choose a ceramic bowl to use
for your meal & to keep as a
reminder that there are always
Empty Bowls in the world

In exchange for a meal & the bowl

Adults \$15

under age 10 \$10

Tickets available at the door

This fundraiser benefits

Project FEED

an emergency food depot located at
Woodfords Church in Portland ME

If you can't make it, but would like to
help support Project FEED, visit our
website to donate!!

altrusaportland.org

FLC & Maine Needs

HOLIDAY GIFT BOX PACKING PARTY ON NOVEMBER 17TH

KIDS AND ADULTS OF ALL AGES, JOIN THE FUN!

Please join us on Sunday, November 17th as we build holiday gift boxes for moms and kids. All boxes will be donated to our local partner, Maine Needs. Thanks to all the donations from the clotheslines the past few months, we have a nice selection of gift items as well as shoe boxes to hold them. If you would like to fill a box or two beforehand with your purchases, please use the plastic shoe boxes provided and deliver them for donation by the 17th.

Still shopping for donation items? Use the lists below for suggested items for each category.

If you have any questions about how to donate, just ask Candice Bredbenner or Anna Louise Englund. Thank you for your support for this annual project!

Maine Needs Holiday Gift Boxes c/o First Lutheran Community

WISH LISTS

Infants/Toddlers	Ages 3-5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board books Rattles, small/soft toys Bottles / Sippy cups Clothes* (sizes 6mo-2) Socks Hats Stuffed animals (small, new) Gift cards <p><i>*If your gift includes clothes for a certain age/gender, please label accordingly.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board books Picture books small toys clothes* (sizes 3-7) Socks Hats Stuffed animals (small, new) Gift cards <p><i>*If your gift includes clothes for a certain age/gender, please label accordingly.</i></p>

Ages 5-8

- Early reader books
- Picture books
- Easy chapter books
- Duplos & legos
- Blocks
- Jumpropes
- Small stuffed animals
- Clothes - sizes 6-10, boys or girls
- gift cards

**If your gift includes items - especially clothes - for a certain age/gender, please label accordingly.*

Ages 9-12

- Games (Uno, Skipbo, etc.)
- Puzzles
- Lego build kits
- Art supplies
- Craft kits
- Gear Bots
- Rubiks cubes
- Fidget toys
- STEM toys
- Warmies

MOTHERS

- Handmade soap
- Tea and chocolate
- Candles
- Essential oils
- Cosmetics (mascara, lip gloss, eye-shadow)
- Facial mask, face cleansers, face lotions
- Body moisturizing lotion
- Body washes, body salts/ sugar scrubs
- Loofas, wash cloths
- Razors
- Hair items (headband, hair ties, small brush)
- Manicure kits or nail care items (polish, polish remover, nail files, etc.)
- Pedicure set
- New, warm socks
- Scarves
- Gift cards

Teen boys

- Travel chess set
- Travel/ magnetic dart board
- Card games
- New, warm socks
- Adidas slides - sizes 8-11
- Small bluetooth speaker
- Wireless earbuds
- Gift cards

(Walmart, Dunkin, Starbucks, Target, Gap, AE, etc.)

Teen girls

- Tea, hot chocolate
- Chocolates, candy
- Facial mask, cleanser
- Moisturizing lotion
- Pedicure/manicure set
- Mascara, nail polish, lip gloss
- Headband, hair ties
- Loofa, wash cloth, razor
- New, warm socks
- Slippers
- Bluetooth speakers
- Wireless earbuds
- LED twinkle lights
- Polaroid/instant camera
- Gift cards (Walmart, Dunkin, Starbucks, Target, Gap, AE, etc.)



Trunk & Treat Event

It was a beautiful fall day and a great turnout for the Trunk & Treat event, hosted by the First Lutheran Children's Program, on October 26th. Lots of families showed up to do some early trick or treating, play on the playground and enjoy the afternoon.



*In Christian
Sympathy*

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Lynnette Fishburn, who passed away on October 13. Lynne bravely fought metastatic kidney cancer for 6 1/2 years. Lynne has been part of the First Lutheran family for several years.

We ask that God give comfort and peace to her family and friends, especially her two sons, her daughter, her three grandsons and her granddaughter.

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



Andrew, Sue & Mike McIver
 Abbott Knowles
 Bob Taylor
 Kay & Bob Ahlquist
 Susan & John Bollman
 Joy & Rachel Hansen
 Carol Mitri
 Doris Kilfoil
 Pat Graham
 Penny Arsenault
 Nick McLellan & family

Al Lorenz
 Cathy Marshall
 The family of Lynne Fishburn
 Victims of racism and hate, especially those in the LGTBQIA+ Community
 Those affected by the hurricanes in the Southeast



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



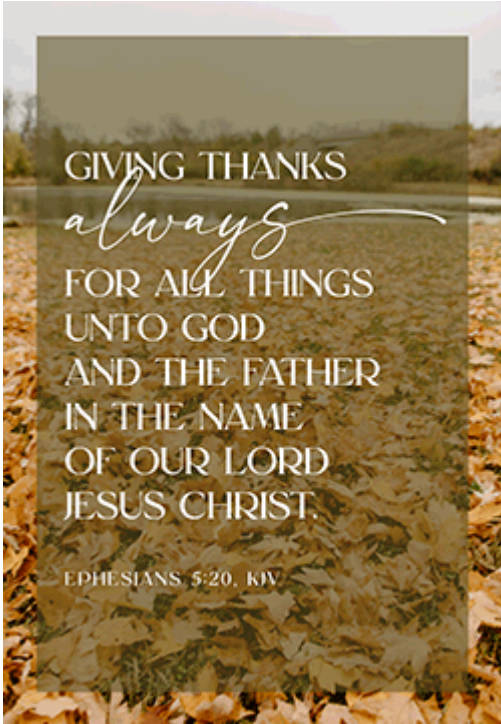
- November 1 John Russel
- November 3 Lauren Cormier
- November 6 Steve Barmore
- November 12 Phyllis Kilfoil
- November 15 Garrett Thees
- November 20 Bob Taylor
Sophia Thees
- November 23 Ken Carr
- November 28 Kay Ahlquist



"The
 fullness
 of **JOY**
 is to
 BEHOLD
GOD
 in all."
 -Julian of Norwich

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

November 2024



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
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**.