



# First News

April 2024

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

## April 14 — Following 10:00am Worship



There will be a special Congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, April 14th.

We will be discussing and voting as to whether or not we approve selling the Washington Avenue Extension property lot for the sole purpose of calling a full-time pastor.

We will also be voting to approve the constitution that was recently revised in accordance with Synod standards. The revised constitution is available to view on the church [website](#) and copies are available at church.

## Quilting Ministry

MISSION POSSIBLE JUST BECAME MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!!

On March 16—National Quilting Day—fourteen folks gathered to put together Lutheran World Relief Quilts. Our goal was to complete 12 that day but we actually finished 13! When added to the 20 quilts completed by the quilting group, we have exceeded our goal by 3 quilts! Thanks to everyone who came out to help that day. There were many smiles, lots of conversations, delicious food and a general feeling of good will. Many thanks to all the willing workers, especially Joy and Ken who set up the tables and chairs, and Susan Bollman who organized the coffee, snacks and the delicious lunch.

You will get an opportunity to see the beautiful quilts displayed in church on Sunday, April 7 when they will be blessed before shipping.



*Join us for our April Quilting Saturdays — April 6th and April 20th — 9:30am to Noon*

# Council Notes

The Council has voted unanimously to extend Pastor Mark's contract when it expires in May. Pastor Mark has graciously agreed to stay on with us and his contract has been extended on a month to month basis. We are grateful for his willingness to continue to serve.

The semi-annual congregational meeting will be held on June 30th. This meeting is not to be confused with the special congregational meeting being held on April 14th. (See the details on page one of this newsletter)

Our constitution was recently revised to meet the new Synod standards. I am so grateful to Ab Knowles and Pastor Mark, who worked with me on this task.

If anyone would like to be on Council for the new term starting in July, please speak to a member of the nominating committee: Teri Cole, Nancy Houlihan, Susan McIver, Dan Nelson and Coleen Walther. If you don't reach out to us, we'll be reaching out to you!

We are still looking for someone to spearhead putting together a new church directory. This will be extremely helpful for a new pastor to have. Please see me if you're interested.

As always, if anyone has any questions, concerns or suggestions, please speak to any Council member and we will be happy to address them at our next meeting. If you would personally like to address the Council on any issue, please contact me and we will welcome you at our next scheduled meeting.

In Christian Fellowship,  
Coleen Walther

# Financial Update

FLC had a net operating loss in February 2024 of \$2,486. We had expected a deficit of \$5,830 so the result was favorable to our budget. The monthly giving was right on budget and expenses were about \$3,500 under budget causing the variance. Our cash reserves can 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 supporting 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](mailto:ed.daggett@flcme.org)

	<b>Actual February 2024</b>	<b>Actual 2024 YTD</b>
Operating Income	\$22,100	\$74,603
Operating Expenses	\$24,586	\$59,433
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(\$2,486)	\$15,170

# RIC EVENT

APRIL 7TH

## *“WHAT DO ALL THOSE LETTERS MEAN?”*

As part of our continuing exploration of what it would mean for First Lutheran Church to become a “Reconciling in Christ” congregation, your RIC Task Force invites all older youth and adults to meet in the Fellowship Hall after coffee time on Sunday, April 7 (11:30 am-12:30 pm) for a presentation about what the letters of “LGBTQIA+” mean and why that’s important to know. Quinn Gormley, former Executive Director of MaineTransNet, Maine’s transgender community organization, will be our guest speaker. Quinn was responsible both for managing educational programming as well as training thousands of people on transgender allyship. Quinn often took trainings to share in faith communities. Quinn will talk about basic terminology, the differences between sexual orientation and gender identity, and the extended understanding of who exactly we mean when we talk about LGBTQ+ people. There will also be time for discussion.

Quinn is also currently in the second year as a Master of Divinity student at Chicago Theological Seminary working towards ordination in the United Church of Christ, and works as a hospital chaplain in Southern Maine.

As always, we invite ongoing questions to be submitted in the box on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall as well. Or you’re invited to contact any of our task force members. Please keep all of this process and discernment in your prayers!



### CROSS+GENERATIONAL EVENT

*“Sticks and Sweets”*

Sunday, April 14th

On Sunday, April 14th, following Worship, fellowship and the special Congregational meeting, a special Cross+Generational event, hosted by the Education Team, will be held in the Fellowship Hall that will focus on faith formation during the season of Easter. We’ll be sharing a devotional and then participating in a cookie walk.

We encourage everyone to bring a dozen cookies to share and to plan to take home a variety of tasty treats!

### FELLOWSHIP MEETING

The Fellowship Team will be meeting on Sunday, April 28th to continue planning opportunities for us to come together for fellowship, fun and sometimes food.

Have an idea you would like to share? Join us in the Hospitality Room following Worship.

### Worship & Church Picnic

Mark your calendars for June 23rd, when we will meet at Fort Williams Park in Cape Elizabeth for our Worship service followed by a church picnic. Look for more details in upcoming newsletters.



## RAISERIGHT GIFT CARD SALES

Card sales continue the first and second Sundays of the month in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday services. Stock up for DIY activities this spring and for your everyday use for grocery shopping, gas purchases, Sam's Club purchases, and cards from over 750 retailers throughout the country.

## FREE T-SHIRTS

Take a T-shirt or two available during the sale of our RaiseRight (Scrip) Gift cards the first two Sundays in April! The Thrivent t-shirts say "Live Generously" which is a worthy and reachable goal for which we can all aim! They are free for the taking and available in several varied sizes and colors...NO PURCHASE NECESSARY!

## ETCETERA

Why not subscribe to our randomly mailed e-News blog? Keep up to date on what is happening with the Give a Child a Chance ministry. Go to the First Lutheran website at [FLCME.org](http://FLCME.org) and select the SUBSCRIBE button. Complete the form and check off the Give a Child a Chance choice. We'd love to have you as a subscriber.

While you are at it, why not enroll in our RaiseRight gift card program? Just go to [RaiseRight.com](http://RaiseRight.com) to join our First Lutheran Program. Use enrollment code: 9A936A95552L6

Team Members: Ann Brown, Colleen Taylor, Karen Johnson, Lynn Macken, Susan Bollman, Wendy Carey (honorary member). [Ec-fund@flcme.org](mailto:Ec-fund@flcme.org)

## Palms and Psalms and Growing Faith at First Lutheran

Thank you to the 20+ folks who participated in the Cross Generational Palms and Psalms event on March 10th. Many thanks to Lorna, Mickie, and Phyllis for the super ideas and guidance with the decorations of the trellis and crosses. Thanks also to Pastor Mark for offering grace and devotions and Matt for taking some nice photos!

During March the Education Committee held a couple meetings; during the meetings fun events for Faith Formation were planned for April 14th and May 19th. Please hold those dates on your calendar and plan to stay an extra hour after church to join in the events.

Many thanks to the youth volunteering to help out during worship and also during the Cross Generational events. We will plan to have a couple of youth readers per month moving forward. Acolyte training for youth was held on March 11th and will be planned again in the near future for folks that were unable to attend.

Members of the Education Team continue to be committed to education and the involvement of all members in this aspect of our church. Our next meeting will be April 10th (6:30 PM with pizza). We continue to welcome participation from new members of all ages.



# Give A Child A Chance Wooden Sign Making Event

You're Invited — Save the date!

On Saturday, April 27th, we will be hosting a wooden sign making party in the Fellowship Hall. We will start at 10 a.m. and it usually takes about 3 hours to make (snacks will be provided). You will be provided all the materials; all you need is a design.

All proceeds will benefit the Give a Child a Chance scholarship fund which gives tuition assistance to those preschool families that need extra help to attend our program.

Sign ups are on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/events/400945692689437>) and will be in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up with a design choice by **Sunday April 14th**. Bring your friends and family — kids are welcome to make a sign as well.

Costs are as follows, and will be paid that day:

\$60 per 16.5" by 19" wooden sign

\$65 per 11" by 36" wooden sign

\$75 per 11" by 48" wooden sign

\$35 per 11" by 11" Kids signs

You pick a choice of stain between Light, Medium, and Dark.



Then you can pick a design off the choices, or send us one from Pinterest you like and we can make it happen.

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Brown at 207-712-4440 or at [abrown03@maine.rr.com](mailto:abrown03@maine.rr.com).

Here are examples of some of the designs you can choose:

**Design 1-21:** Kennedy Family, Family Laundry, Welcome to the Camp, Live with a Great Life, Believe There is Good in the World, When Life Gives you a Stand, Without Music Life would Be, Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away, Enjoy the little things in life, Home, Lord Give me Coffee to change the things I can and Wine to accept the things I can't, Grandkids, The best things in life are the people we love, Home Sweet Home.

**Design 22-43:** Family in the Anchor, Welcome to the Camp, Busy to Drink Wine, Rise and Shine, Give Love, Trust, Listen, Voice, All guests must be approved by the dogs, Rise and Shine, Life is a dance, sometimes you lead, sometimes you follow, Don't worry, Life's a dance, Things are the best, People are the best, Places are the best, Memories are the best, Kennedy Camping Rules, Watch the Sunset.

**Design 44-65:** Family in the Anchor, Welcome to the Camp, Busy to Drink Wine, Rise and Shine, Give Love, Trust, Listen, Voice, All guests must be approved by the dogs, Rise and Shine, Life is a dance, sometimes you lead, sometimes you follow, Don't worry, Life's a dance, Things are the best, People are the best, Places are the best, Memories are the best, Kennedy Camping Rules, Watch the Sunset.

**Design 66-87:** Home, Lord Give me Coffee to change the things I can and Wine to accept the things I can't, Grandkids, The best things in life are the people we love, Home Sweet Home.

**Design 88-109:** Give Thanks, Believe, Welcome, This is us, Camping, Home Sweet Home, Family, Love, Faith, Relax, Garden, Football Life.

# Getting to Know Us

## *Anna Louise Englund*



Anna Louise lives near First Lutheran, in the North Deering neighborhood of Portland with her husband, Mark Arienti, and their son Anders (age 9); she also has a son Teddy Hanley when he is home from college, and their dog, Pogonia. Her daughter, Caitlyn Hanley, who will turn 23 in late March, is now living on her own, having graduated from Bates College last May.

As a young person she was a highly sought-after babysitter in her town, and was lucky if she made \$1.50 an hour! She also worked at a sandwich shop for a while as well as at a ski shop. In the summers, “I had the best job ever which was working at Camp Calumet Lutheran.” She had been a camper for 8 years before her first year on staff which was in 1987. Those years were formative in hundreds of ways. “I learned leadership skills, navigated challenges, and made the best of friends. I became independent and confident under a protective bubble. Those memories bring me great comfort to this day. “

Anna Louise has spent a lot of time in Japan; she majored in Japanese in college. Her first visit there was for 6 months, and she returned twice to Japan for 2 months each. She has traveled some in the USA but not enough and they are saving up to travel more!

Anna Louise first came to FLC in about 1994. She had secured her first “real” job and was living with two roommates in downtown Portland. Her cousin, Miriam Englund, ran the First Lutheran SAC program at that time, so “when I got up early enough, I joined her at church.” Back then, visitors at church received cookies as a welcome gift. On her first day at FLC, she vividly remembers receiving a batch of chocolate chip cookies that she brought home to her roommates. “They gave me a hard time about the gift, but they enjoyed them as much as I did! “Over the years, she helped with music, Sunday School, and now Outreach and Cross+Generational activities. Anna Louise is inspired by the countless people at First Lutheran who give so much to our community and ask nothing in return.

If Anna Louise won the lottery and had money left over after helping others just for herself, she would buy a hot tub, stop work, go to yoga class often, pay off their mortgage and travel to all the places that they want to visit—including all of the national parks in the USA as well as Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan,...and the list goes on.



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Jeffrey Durluo, who passed away on March 26, 2024. Jeff attended Sunday School and was confirmed at First Lutheran. Although he lost his way in life for several years, due in part to alcoholism and to a brain injury he sustained in a car accident in 2006, he enjoyed coming back to worship the past few years.

We ask God to bless and give comfort to Jeff’s family and friends, especially his mother Trena and brother Andy.

A Celebration of Life for Jeffrey will be held on Friday, April 5th at 11am at First Lutheran, preceded by a visitation and fellowship time at 10am.

*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



The family of Jeff Durluo, especially Trena & Andy Abbott Knowles Ned Long Wendy Carey Laurretta Nielsen Bob Mitchell Joy & Rachel Hansen Lynne Fishburn Carol Mitri Margarite Arienti Doris Kilfoil Linda Clarke Jen Merrill

Tim Eastman Jen & Brian Hazelwood Paul & Sharon Aube Peter Rovnak Jennifer Tarr The family & friends of Ann Sheridan Victims of racism and hate, especially those in the LGBTQIA+ community All victims of violence The people of Israel and the innocent civilians of Palestine



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)



April 10	Ann Brown
April 12	Ken Conant
April 15	Madi Leo
April 17	Stella Hayn
April 22	Steve Chabot
April 29	Paul Loven
April 30	Dylan Alvord

I would like to express my appreciation for the prayers, cards, calls and other acts of kindness during my recent rehabilitation.

God Bless you all.

Laurretta Nielsen



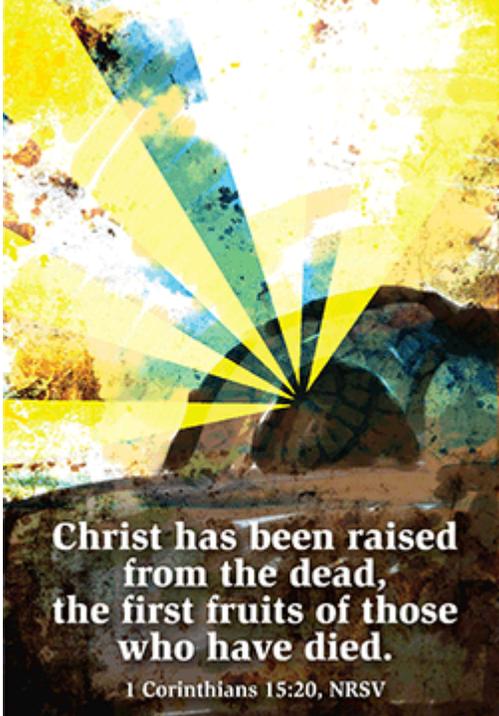
Thank you to everyone that helped plan and participated in all the Lenten and Holy Week services, including readers, worship assistants, singers and musicians, those that prepared the altar, those that decorated the church, the Tech Team, and many others.

Special thanks and gratitude to:

- Brenda, Mark & Lisa for leading some of the Midweek Lenten services
- The Fellowship Team for setting up and cleaning up during the soup suppers and all who provided soup, bread & desserts
- Joleen for her work in the office preparing all the bulletins
- Anders and Peyton for being acolytes
- Kris Conant and Sarah Morneau for providing special music on Easter

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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PORTLAND, MAINE 04103-2145**

**April 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](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**

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**OFFICERS**

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