



First News

May 2023

The Monthly Publication of First Lutheran Church, Portland, ME

Special Days in May



Mother's Day
May 14

The Ascension of our Lord
May 18



He was taken
up to **heaven**.
ACTS 1:2



Welcome to Pastor Mark & Linda Perry
May 21

Pentecost Sunday & Confirmation
May 28



Peace be with you.
AS THE FATHER HAS
SENT ME,
—EVEN SO I AM—
SENDING YOU.

John 20:21, ESV

MEMORIAL DAY



Memorial Day
May 29

Financial Update

FLC had a net operating deficit in March 2023 of \$3,784. We had expected a deficit of \$2,834 so the result was unfavorable to our budget. The primary cause was higher energy expenses than budgeted. Our operating account maintains a healthy balance as does the Children's Program.

A deficit budget of (\$34,898) for 2023 subject to any later estimates of giving being received was approved at the semi-annual meeting. Since then we have learned of several members who have left the church and as a result our final budget has increased to (\$45,977). Once our interim pastor begins our deficit will be increased dramatically.

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 March 2023	Actual YTD
Operating Income	\$27,164	\$82,729
Operating Expenses	\$30,948	\$97,273
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(\$3,784)	(\$14,544)

Evensong Taize

This Lent, we shared soup and bread together every Wednesday and contemplated the cross together through our Taize worship. Thank you to all our community members for your loving contributions to our worship: musicians, singers, soup-makers, set-up and take down people, readers, and greeters. We even had an original poem written and read by our own Ken Conant at one of the services.

Going forward, we have decided to move to First Sundays at 6:30pm for our Evensong Taize service time. Our next service will be held on May 7th at 6:30pm. Please invite friends, family, and neighbors who are curious about spiritual things, but not ready to attend a Sunday morning service yet. We aim to be a place of radical welcome where we meet people where they are at and invite them to listen to the Spirit through Song, Scripture, Poetry, and Silence. If you haven't experienced our service yet, please "Come and See!"

Many Blessing to you this Easter Season,

Jenna and Aaron Hoffman

Book Study

We have been hosting a book group once-a-month in the Centennial Room after church on Sundays. We are reading and reflecting on the book "How Shall We Worship?" by Marva Dawn. It has been a great study so far. She challenges us to imagine a more 'integrated' view of worship. We have been sharing stories of what we each find enlivening about worship, and how we can create more engaging worship experiences for people of all ages and personalities. We are a diverse people, and Dr. Dawn invites us to learn from the Psalms, and bring our whole self to worship as we praise and exalt our majestic and holy Triune God, 'in spirit and in truth.'

For more information, contact Aaron Hoffman.

aaron.hoffman@flcme.org

Ecumenical Service Corps

Empowering Young Leaders for Justice

Join us for once-a-month Service Projects where we work together with Junior and Senior High Youth from other Portland-area churches as we help those in need and have fun!

Join us: **Sunday May 7th @ 12 NOON**

Trinity Episcopal Church
580 Forest Ave, Portland

Food Packing! We will help pack 3,000 meals for Good Shepherd Food Bank and help fight hunger in Maine!

(We'll have a pizza and soda lunch too of course)

For more information, email Aaron Hoffman — aaron.hoffman@flcme.org

Evensong Taizé



To be a “sanctuary of peace.”
A place where all people feel welcomed and honored.
A sanctuary of silence, prayer, rest, and meditation,
Where Love abides.

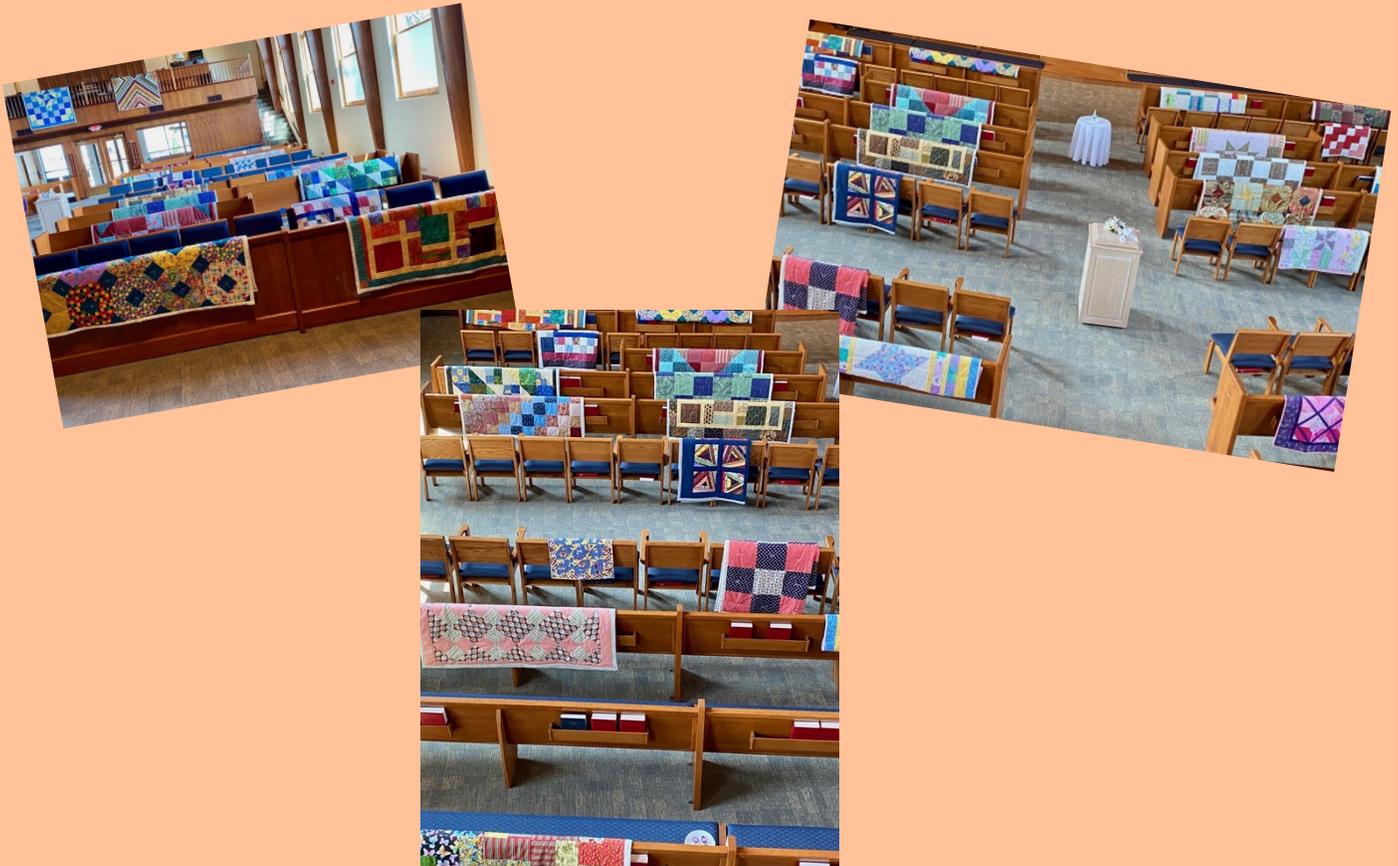
First Sundays at 6:30pm

LWR Quilts

Thirty-Six Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts are blessed and ready for packing. Consider joining us on our only May gathering on Saturday, May 20 from 9:30 to Noon. We will be packing all the quilts which will be transported to Brunswick and Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, the Maine drop off site. From there they will be sent to the Maryland warehouse for processing and then shipped to folks in need around the world.

The quilting group will meet the first and third Saturdays from 9:30 — Noon throughout the summer. We are out of quilt backing materials so if you discover some gently used cotton sheets during your spring cleaning that you no longer need, please consider giving them to us. Donations of quilt fabric are always welcome as well. Thanks for your help.

Summer/Fall quilting dates: June 3 & 17, July 1 & 15, August 5 & 19, September 2 & 16



Many thanks to those who helped to put together the flower bouquets and to those who delivered them to our homebound members and friends. They were a beautiful expression of Christian love at the start of Holy Week, and were appreciated by all who received them.

Thank you to Thrivent for the Action Team funds that made this event possible.



Anders, Anna Louise and Marlene hard at work



Two May Day Opportunities You Don't Want to Miss

You, too, can enroll in our RaiseRight Gift Card program for our Give a Child a Chance ministry. Since 2014, we have contributed over \$62,000 to help children from 15 families attend our FLC Preschool. Without our financial aid, these children would not have had the advantage of a preschool experience because their families could not have afforded the tuition costs.

Opportunity #1 — RaiseRight Membership

Easy to join and an effective way to give to our Give a Child a Chance ministry. We invite you to enroll in our Give a Child a Chance RaiseRight gift card program. Raise funds by buying gift cards from 750+ retailers to give to others, for your everyday shopping and spending year-round...groceries, dining out, home improvement and everything in between. It's a convenient and effective way to fundraise.

How it works:

Go to RaiseRight.com to enroll in our program or click on the [link](#) to be taken directly to the enrollment page. Use the following Enrollment Code for our First Lutheran Church:

9A936A95552L6

You will be asked to create a password that only you will know. Decide how you will pay for the gift cards you order. The easiest way is to have the gift card money taken from your bank account or credit card. You supply the information on a secure network. Or you may pay by check or cash, which is due at the time of the order.

You can order gift cards at full value from 750+ brands. Pick from eGift cards (which appear immediately in your account and are only available if you have automatic withdrawal from your bank account or credit card) and physical gift cards.

If you do not wish to enroll in the program, place your order on the first or second Sunday of the month after Sunday service at our table in the Fellowship Hall. You can pay with cash or check. Make checks payable to First Lutheran Church with "RaiseRight" or "Scrip" written on the memo line. Payment must be made at the time of ordering. Cards will be distributed upon their arrival by mail at FLC. RaiseRight gift cards never expire.

Opportunity #2 — Subscribe to our eNews Blog

Why not subscribe to our randomly mailed e-News blog? Keep up to date on what is happening with Give a Child a Chance.

Go to the First Lutheran website at 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.

Team Members: Susan Bollman, Ann Brown, Wendy Carey, Karen Johnson, and Colleen Taylor

Ec-fund@flcme.org

Welcome New Members

On Easer Sunday, we welcomed Matthew, Lauren and Declan Fay as new members. May God bless these new brothers and sister as they work with us in the Kingdom of God.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:7

Also on Easter Sunday, we welcomed Peyton Richards at the table as she received her First Communion.

May the Holy Spirit continue to be with Peyton as she grows in her faith.



Is someone in your family graduating this spring? Whether from middle school, high school or college, we would love to celebrate their accomplishment in the June or Summer newsletters.

Pass along their name and graduation information to news@flcme.org. Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Holy Week and Easter services very special.

To all who read, helped with communion, beautified the church, set the altar, played an instrument, sang in a choir, rang the bells, prepared the bulletins, streamed the services—we give thanks to God for your service.

Special thanks to Sarah Morneau who played the violin and Karl Nordli who played the cello on Easter morning.



As many of you know, Faith Lutheran in Cambridge, Massachusetts suffered a devastating fire early evening on Easter Sunday. While no one was hurt, the six-alarm fire caused significant damage to the 100-year old building. As shown in this picture, the steeple was taken down to prevent it from falling and causing more damage.

The congregation has already received much support, including a place to hold worship at the nearby Pentecostal tabernacle, operating their shared feeding ministry out of the nearby synagogue, and being welcomed at the local mosque for the weekly prayer service.

If you would like to support their recovery efforts, you can go to their [Go Fund Me](#) page.

Please continue to hold our brothers and sisters at Faith Lutheran in your prayers.

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

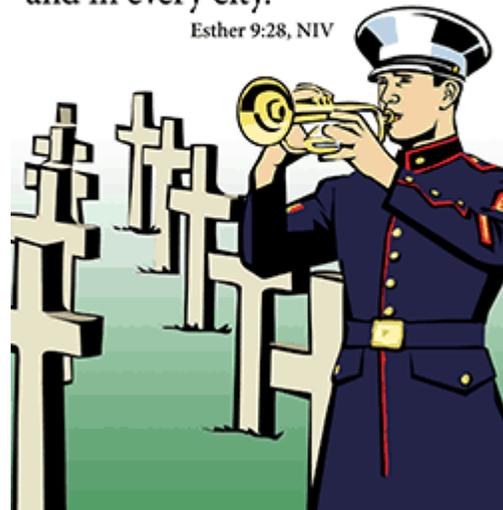


- May 1 Katie Lamb
- May 4 Andy Durloo
- May 7 Andrew McIver
Matthew Dressel
- May 8 Colleen Taylor
- May 12 Braden Lamb
- May 17 Sue McIver
- May 18 Jennifer Hazelwood
- May 21 Maeve Gaudet
- May 24 Allen Conant
- May 25 Joy Carr
- May 26 Beth Gaudet

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Abbott Knowles | Stephanie, Henry & |
| Ned Long | Baby Cease |
| Wendy Carey | Bev Beliveau |
| Grace Conant Stockwell | Jen & Brian Hazelwood |
| Bob Mitchell | Owen & Susan O'Donnell |
| Dave Deuben | John & Linda Joyce |
| Sue Hayden | Paul & Sharon Aube |
| Karen Johnson | Faith Lutheran Church |
| Lynne Fishburn | Victims of racism and |
| Jeffrey Durloo | hate |
| FLC Call Committee | All victims of violence |
| FLC Sunday School | |
| FLC Church Council | |

THESE DAYS SHOULD BE REMEMBERED AND OBSERVED in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city.

Esther 9:28, NIV





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

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

May 2023



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. The deadline is the 15th.

**Worship Service is at 10:00 am
Sunday School for all ages is at 9:00 am**

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

www.FLCME.org

STAFF

Pastor
Youth and Worship Minister Jenna Hoffman (jenna.hoffman@flcme.org)
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 Matt Thees
Vice-President..... Coleen Walther
Secretary Judy Horn
Treasurer Ed Daggett
Financial Secretary Cheryl Cyr