



First News

Summer 2021

The Monthly Publication of First Lutheran Church, Portland, ME

Jerry Link Award

At the June congregational meeting, this year's Jerry Link volunteer award was presented to Steve Barmore.

Steve's contributions to First Lutheran are too numerous to list all of them. He served as Council president during our transition period and call process. He has chaired the Investment committee for many years. He is willing to help lead worship and preach when Pastor is away. He recently was elected to serve on the Mutual Ministry team.

Steve is the Property Committee's "go-to" guy. He is often at church, fixing whatever needs attention, allowing both FLC and the Children's Program to operate smoothly. He goes about his work without fanfare, never seeking recognition.

For these and many other reasons, the outgoing Council felt that Steve was more than deserving of this award. First Lutheran is indeed blessed to have Steve, and we thank him for all that he does.

At the June Congregational meeting, Ann Brown, Corey Hanson and Judy Horn were elected to serve a two-year term on Council.

At its June meeting, the new Church Council elected the following to serve as officers for the 2021-2022 term:

President — Julie Mueller
Vice President — Matt Thees
Secretary — Corey Hanson
Treasurer — Ed Daggett
Financial Secretary — Cheryl Cyr

The Council also chose Committee liaisons for the new term:

Communications.....Nancy Houlihan	Children's Program.....Mary Beaudet
Education.....Steve Santiago	Give A Child A Chance.....Susan Bollman
Emergency Preparedness.....Coleen Walther	Mutual Ministry.....Julie Mueller
Fellowship.....Ann Brown	Outreach.....Corey Hanson & Paul Loven
Financial Stewardship.....Steve Santiago & Nancy Houlihan	Property.....Matt Thees
	Worship.....Judy Horn



Council Notes

At its June meeting, the Council agreed to lift many of the Covid restrictions that have been in place. Those who are vaccinated do not need to wear masks at church events. We continue to recommend that those who are unvaccinated wear a mask.

Meetings can now be held in person if desired; however, it is recommend to continue offering a

Zoom option for those who are unable to meet in person. Church services will continue to be streamed live on YouTube for the foreseeable future.

In light of the generous gift received, the Council has directed the Mutual Ministry Committee to craft a revised job description for the position of Youth and Family Minister and to form a search committee to begin the process of filling this position.

2021-2022 Council: Mary Beudet, Susan Bollman, Ann Brown, Corey Hanson, Judy Horn, Nancy Houlihan, Paul Loven, Julie Mueller, Steve Santiago, Matt Thees, Coleen Walther

council@flcme.org



Financial Update

FLC had a net operating surplus in May of \$8,509. We had expected a surplus of \$4,482, but several large expenses unexpectedly were incurred in April causing our larger May surplus. Our operating account maintains a healthy balance as does the Children’s Program.

Further, as was announced at the Semiannual meeting, we have received a \$100,000 gift to fund the establishment of a Youth and Family Ministry program. The Mutual Ministry committee will be tasked with moving the process forward.

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 May 2021	Actual YTD
Operating Income	\$27,787	\$140,586
Operating Expenses	\$19,278	\$126,021
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$8,509	\$14,565



From the Pastor

“I and the Father are one.” — John 10:30

Pete, my best friend since I was ten years old, became a father late this June. He was the one friend in our group that I could have never imagined settling down and starting a family. It just did not seem like his thing. But now that he is a father, I can easily imagine him being a good at it. He is patient and caring. I can hardly remember a time I saw him truly angry. These qualities that lend themselves to good parenting are the same qualities perfected by our Father in heaven.

In Ted Peters book, *God—The World’s Future* we read, “The Christian use of the Father symbol to designate the first person of the Trinity derives initially from Jesus. The Gospel of Mark describes Jesus as the Son of Man and the Son of God. The contrast and connection are dramatically portrayed in the anguish of the Gethsemane prayer where Jesus begins, ‘Abba’ (Mark 14:36). The untranslated Aramaic address seems very important. It marks a special relationship between Jesus and the Holy One of Israel. When Jesus’ contemporaries would address God as Father in prayer, the address was combined with royal imagery such as “Our Father and Our King.” They appealed to God as Beyond. But Jesus’ use here communicates the Intimate.”

It is interesting how we seem to follow Jesus’ contemporaries more than Jesus. In the Christian church today many of us tend to view Jesus more as “Our Father and King” as opposed to Jesus’ preferred address as dad or daddy. It may not seem important but it is. God the Father should not be viewed as a King dressed in white, wearing a crown and handing out justice. Rather God the Father is the loving parent. The one who picks us up when we fall down. The one who desires to bounce us on the divine knee and who loves to make us laugh. What we know about the Trinity we learned in the person of Jesus Christ. And through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ we know that our Father in heaven loves us more than we could possibly understand. God the Father is more than a king; he is our heavenly mother and father rolled into one. My only hope for myself and for all of you is that we can show others just a glimpse of who God the Father is.

Amen.

PB

Have news to share?

Send it to News@flcme.org!

Articles/photos sent to this email address are delivered to Bill Mills [newsletter], Joleen [weekly bulletin], Pastor Brad [general announcements] and the Communications Team [Website, Facebook, Calendar]

Fair Updates

Tailgate Boutique

The Fair Committee would like to thank the congregation for their donations to our first Tailgate Boutique on June 6th. People lingered around for conversation and refreshments!

Our next Tailgate Boutique is July 11th (Christmas in July)!

The proceeds from our Tailgate Boutiques support Pastor Brad's Discretionary Fund.

Our following Tailgate Boutiques will be August 8th and September 12th.



2021 Holiday Virtual Craft Fair

October 25 to November 15, 2021

New homemade craft items will be displayed!

We currently have many crafts to offer for sale. We welcome more crafts made by the congregation!

For example: Fabric microwave cozies/mitts; cereal bowl size and slightly larger ones.

Macrame items; kids wall hanging, plant hangers. Yes, we were told macrame was in!

If you have any hidden craft talents, suggestions, or any questions, please let the committee know by contacting us at fair@flcme.org.

Homemade craft items are due to the Fair Committee by Sunday, September 19th.

All proceeds will support the FLC Fuel Assistance Program.

Thank you!

The Fair Committee, Laura Page, Deb Heald, Susan Bollman, Colleen Taylor, and Phyllis Kilfoil.

Here is an update on our GPF family:



Dad has finished school and his English skills are improving. Portland Adult Ed classes should be in person in the fall. We believe that Dina will be more successful in school if the classes are in person. There are no classes offered in the summer through Portland Adult Education.

Dina will be having surgery next week. We pray for a successful outcome.

Children:

Elohim was able to attend Sun School for one week, but unfortunately summer school is not offered for his grade level. He is signed up for the Youth Earn a Bike program at Portland Gear Hub and will receive a bike, helmet and lock after attending a 2 hour workshop.

Benedicte received a bicycle from Portland Gear Hub, complete with a brand new pink helmet. She is thrilled to have a bicycle. We have also applied for a scholarship for a year-long dance program through Casco Bay Movers for Benedicte. We will know in a couple of weeks if she was awarded the scholarship. Benedicte will attend Summer School for one month beginning June 28th.

The baby will be 1 year old in July. He is just about ready to walk, and is such a happy little guy.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for this family. Please let us know if you have any questions about the family or about GPF in general.

Wendy and Yvonne



Give a Child a Chance

Reintroducing Dinorah—first a Butterfly and now a Dragonfly

Another preschool year has ended, and while Dinorah will continue attending FLCP Preschool with her Dragonfly friends through the summer, we thought it a good time to catch you up on her adventurous year. This is our second year of providing preschool tuition support to Dinorah

To refresh your memories a bit, here is a little background on Dinorah's family in Portland: before coming to the United States, Claver and Joyce lived in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a country in long-standing conflict, war, and turmoil. They were continuously challenged by frequent attacks causing their families to flee and move often. Even in refugee camps they continued to be attacked. It was and still is a dangerous time in the DRC. Both Claver and Joyce have family members remaining in the DRC and in refugee camps in Kenya.

Claver and Joyce met in 2011 in the USA, and married in 2013. Marrying in the Congolese tradition meant that each family (they both come from large families) had to approve the potential spouse as being industrious, trustworthy, ambitious and worthy of each other. Both families gave their blessing.

Now a little bit about Dinorah's year as a Dragonfly. Dinorah's parents told me about her activities and progress throughout this school year. They say that Dinorah started the year as a very shy preschooler who would have trouble answering a question due to her shyness. Now, she is no longer shy and speaks up. Her parents think this has been the biggest change during her preschool time at FLC. Her knowledge and use of words has improved a lot and her vocabulary is increasing every day. She would shy away from others she didn't know well. After her year in FLCP preschool, she is no longer a shy wallflower. She loves her friends and her teachers in Preschool, and talks about them a lot around their house.

She especially likes the Circle time, where she and her Dragonfly friends sit and listen to a story. At home, when Dinorah is asked to read a book for herself, she will say she is "too tired" which means that she wants to be read to. She still enjoys that experience of being read to. She has loved this year at preschool, and her parents say everything is perfect for her. She's ready for kindergarten!

And we are sure you remember Dirck, Dinorah's big brother, who we supported with tuition help when he was in our FLCP preschool. His parents tell us that he loves to read and he reads really well with good pronunciation of his words. He is good with math, too, and works well in small groups, staying focused on the group's task. It's easier to get distracted when the entire class is involved in some activity.

So we wish Dinorah and Dirck fun in learning as they move on in their studies. May learning always be an adventure for each of them...and for Diella, their 2 ½ year old sister who is coming along right behind them!

We feel blessed to have been a part of their learning experiences and look forward to hearing more about their successes and adventures in the future. God bless them and their family and may our Lord continue to bless the mission of our Give a Child a Chance ministry at First Lutheran.

GACAC Team: Susan Bollman, Ann Brown, Wendy Carey, Karen Johnson, Lynne Macken, Joan Mills, Mike Pleacher, Colleen Taylor.

Ec-fund@flcme.org

SCRIP GIFT CARDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE – JUST CONTACT A TEAM MEMBER



Dirck, Diella, Dinorah (left to right)

From the Editor

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory”

—1 Corinthians 15: 52-54 (NRSV)

In the span of three weeks this spring, both of my father’s sisters, my Aunt Carolyn and my Aunt Gail, passed away. I found that I had several emotions going through me.

First of all, I grieved for the loss of my aunts, whom I loved dearly. Not only are they part of many of my best childhood memories, but I was lucky enough to share many experiences with them as an adult. I am sorry that I wasn’t able to see either of them for the past couple of years, and I will miss both of them. I also grieve with my cousins, who have lost their mothers.

Second, their passing made me think about and miss my dad. Though there are still some of my father’s cousins alive, all of my dad’s immediate family are now gone. I realized that I have lost the opportunity to talk with those that knew my dad as a child. No longer can I sit around and hear the stories of their youth. So many of these stories I have committed to memory, but gone is the chance to hear them firsthand.

And then an emotion that I wasn’t expecting came to me — my mortality. It really struck me that as two more of my elders passed, one by one my generation is becoming the oldest generation. In my family, there are now two generations below mine, and only one above.

Most of the time, we don’t think about our mortality. Of course we do as we reach our golden years. We might when we are facing an illness or medical crisis. Currently Jody and I are doing our estate planning, which forces us to think about what we want to happen when we die.

I’ve been asked, usually by a non-Christian, if I fear dying. My answer has usually been that I am afraid of dying (meaning the process of dying—especially if it is painful or drawn out), but I don’t fear death. Most of us would say that we don’t want to die. There are things here on Earth we still want to do. We want to see our children and grandchildren grow. We want more opportunities to learn, to teach, to serve, to experience life.

But as Christians, we certainly don’t fear death. We know—we believe—that because of the saving work of Jesus on the cross, His death and His resurrection, death has lost its sting. Death is not the end. By the grace of God we are saved, our sins forgotten, the promise of eternal life assured.

While I am sad that I will never again see my aunts in this world, I rejoice knowing that they have been called home. They are out of the pain they both suffered with in recent years. They have been reunited with my uncles, with my father, with my grandparents. They are now part of the saints above, and I will look forward to the day when I can see them again.

I pray, that whenever you face your mortality, you look toward the cross. That you remain assured of the promises of your baptism. That you remember the words that end the Nicene Creed, “We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.”

God’s Blessings to you all, and especially to those that mourn.

In +His service,

Bill Mills



July 1	Christina Dressel
July 3	Beverly Jensen
July 5	Brenda Morneau
July 7	Bob Mitchell (97)
July 13	Leigh Baade
July 14	Joan Mills
July 15	Greg Morneau
July 17	Elaine Killelea (93)
	Ina Dressel
July 18	Janine Cook
July 19	Lauren Eidson
July 20	Irene Nelson
July 21	Brian Jumper
	Suellyn Santiago
	Catherine Hooper
July 22	Dan Nelson
July 23	Zoe Leland
July 25	Bill Mills
July 26	Mike Beliveau
July 29	Susan Bollman
July 31	Jane Plourde

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|----------------------------|--|
| Katelyn Burrell | George Wilkinson |
| Fred Olsen | Evelyn Moran |
| Tom Allen | Jan Bennett |
| Carol Adams | Celeste Heber |
| Pastor Brad, Lauren & Will | Jackie Nelson |
| Fay Brown | Lauren Cormier |
| Joan Mills | David Selleck |
| Joleen Knowles | Emmanuel Lutheran Church |
| Jen Merrill | Those still suffering from Coronavirus |
| Owen O'Donnell | Victims of racism and hate |
| Lorraine Taylor | |
| Elaine Killelea | |
| Ann Johnson | |

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



August 1	Fred Kilfoil
August 5	Mark Nordli
	Sue Muzzy
August 8	Nils Leland
August 10	Yvonne Jumper
August 11	Lauretta Nielsen
August 14	Wendy Carey (96)
August 15	Brian Hazelwood
August 22	Andy Beaudet
	Gene Kucinkas
	Greta Krantz
August 25	Fred Walther
August 27	Carol Adams (92)
August 29	Katie Mueller
	Simon Pesa




The congregation is invited to a Celebration of Life for Jacqueline Donovan.

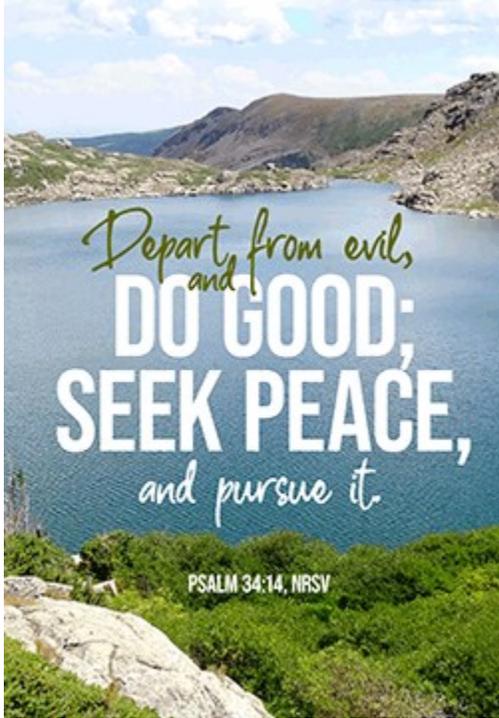
Saturday, July 17 — 10:00 am

Hobbs Funeral Home
671 US Route One, Scarborough

A simple meal will be served.

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

Summer 2021



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

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

www.FLCME.org

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