



# First News

September 2023

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

## Join Us for Heritage Sunday



### **Our Story in HIS-tory: A Day to Honor our Past and Envision Our Future**

Please join us for a very special day on Sunday, September 10, 2023 to review, reflect upon and celebrate First Lutheran Church's history with its various trends and chapters with the goal of seeing what that suggests about who we are as a church and what should be focused on, strengthened or released for moving into our next chapter.

A 45-minute worship service will focus on giving thanks for our almost 150 years of ministry, followed by a potluck in the Fellowship Hall, then moving into a time of sharing memories and discussing what our trends and experiences suggest about what God wants the next chapter in our life together to look like.

We're also inviting folks to bring "heritage" dishes to the potluck that may be special to your family and/or your background. There is a sign up for the potluck on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Let [Barb Daggett](#) know if you'd like to help out with the potluck.

This event is being planned and hosted by your FLC Transition Team: Susan Bollman, Ann Brown, Barb Daggett, Phyllis Kilfoil, Pastor Perry, Sarah Pesa, and Matt Thees.

For more information, contact Pastor Perry at the church office or [mark.perry@flcme.org](mailto:mark.perry@flcme.org).

All are invited to join us for what promises to be a joyful and energizing day!





How blessed we are to have such great group of people who are willing to serve First Lutheran Church! We are a diverse group of faithful Christians with one common goal: to serve our church, our community and our Savior.

Here are some of the things we will be working on in the upcoming months:

- Because of our current financial situation, forming a strong Stewardship Committee is a top priority
- Finalizing our building usage contract with Mystery of the Cross Church
- We are looking forward to building our Education Program to include all members of FLC, working together to support our youth
- Editing and revising our constitution
- We will be having a Council “mini-retreat” on Saturday, 9/30

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 like to personally address the Council on any issues, please contact me and we will welcome you at our next scheduled meeting.

In Christian Fellowship,  
Coleen Walther

At the July Council meeting, new officers were elected and committee liaisons were chosen for the 2023-2024 term.

**Officers**

- President — Coleen Walther
- Vice President — Ann Brown
- Council Secretary — Ken Conant

**Committee Liaisons**

- Call Committee — Emily Cole
- Children's Program — Ann Brown
- Communications — Lauren Cormier
- Education — Gene Kucinkas
- Emergency Preparedness — Coleen Walther
- Fellowship — Gene Kucinkas
- Give A Child A Chance — Ann Brown
- Investments — Bill Mills
- Outreach — Nancy Houlihan
- Property — Michael McIver & Ken Conant
- Stewardship — Ed Daggett
- Worship — Judy Horn & Lauren Cormier

## Financial Update

FLC had a net operating deficit in July 2023 of \$4,008. We had expected a deficit of \$10,035 so the result was favorable to our budget. Our receipts were about \$3,000 over budget and our expenses \$3,000 under budget leading to the \$6,000 favorable variance. Our operating account maintains a healthy balance, but will be under increasing pressure as we continue the rest of 2023.

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 July 2023</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>
Operating Income	\$28,796	\$188,174
Operating Expenses	\$32,804	\$231,794
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(\$4,008)	(\$43,621)

# Worship Notes

## JENNA HOFFMAN RESIGNATION

As was shared at worship on August 20th by Council President Coleen Walther, Youth and Worship Minister Jenna Hoffman submitted her resignation the previous week. Sunday, August 27th, was her last Sunday with us in that role. We are sad to see her go. We are very grateful for the wonderful gifts, skills and passion for the Lord that she brought to First Lutheran Church. We pray her well in the next part of her journey and ask God's blessings upon her and her family.

Your Worship Committee and Education Committee are meeting to discuss how we can best move forward in the ministry areas for which she was responsible. We are committed to continuing to offer the highest quality of experiences and opportunities possible as we seek to worship, learn and grow in our love of God and service to one another. We appreciate your prayers for meeting those goals.

If you have questions, please contact Council President Coleen Walther or Transition Pastor Mark Perry.

## CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

The Worship Committee has created a short survey about our worship services, and we are asking for your help in evaluating how Sunday worship and faith formation is going and where you think we could improve.

Click on the link below to take the online survey. Please feel free to be candid with your answers; the survey can be anonymous. We value your honest opinions.

### [Congregational Survey](#)

The Committee looks forward to hearing your thoughts and we will be working on ways to provide the best experience possible for worshipping at First Lutheran. Thank you for your responses.

**The deadline to take the survey is September 3rd!**



## Backpack Blessing Sunday, September 3rd

Children, youth and families are invited to bring their school backpacks with them to worship on Sunday, September 3, for a special blessing on them and for students, teachers and others who are starting the school year soon! We'll gather up front during Children's Time for this moment to pray for all those continuing their educational journey this fall.

# Our Community Involvement

Greater Portland Family Promise (GFPF), an affiliate of the national Family Promise program, is dedicated to addressing the needs of families facing homelessness in the Greater Portland area. Family Promise connects with existing community resources, along with an interfaith network. Family Promise provides housing, once-a-month culturally appropriate foods, case management, and community for children and their families experiencing homelessness.

GFPF and First Lutheran have partnered together since 2017, beginning with the model rotation and acting as a support church with St. Ansgar Lutheran Church. Since Covid and a subsequent change in the structure of Family Promise, FLC has shifted their focus, too. We have supported individual families, collected diapers, quarters for laundry, and gift cards. We have helped families move into new apartments, collected furniture, helped teach English, provided Christmas gifts, and put together move-in kits, just to name a few.

With the support of the church Council, and a core group of Family Promise volunteers, we would like to continue this partnership with GFPF. If you would like to help volunteer, we would love to have you be a part of this mission of helping others in our community.

Thank you.

Wendy Barmore



The Outreach Committee has reconvened and we are already planning a variety of activities. Some of our plans involve familiar projects that have been a regular part of Outreach's work, such as continued support for Greater Portland Family Promise, flower deliveries to shut-ins, and the quilting projects. But, members are also interested in taking our work in some new directions, keeping in mind that our charge is to support FLC's work "in witness and service within the congregation and in the greater community."

At our first meeting, the committee agreed to meet on the third Sunday of each month and designated Paul Loven (plaaven@gmail.com) and Candice Bredbenner (candicebredbenner@gmail.com) as co-chairs. If you are curious about what we are planning, have some ideas that you would like to share, and/or want to get involved in current projects, please join us after church on September 17th.

**God's work.  
Our hands.**

## Quilting Ministry

Our church quilters and crafters have recently received a wonderful gift. A gentleman, who summers in Rangeley, was looking for a Lutheran church that could use his deceased wife's fabric stash. Luckily, he found us! After some communication, he delivered a carload of lovely fabric. His generous gift will keep us busy for quite a while. We have received fabric from others moving, downsizing, etc., and have made good use of it in making Mission Quilts, baby and child quilts for Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, various items for our church fairs and lap quilts for the Barron Center.

We have a small group of quilters who sew at home but meet at church the first and third Saturday mornings of each month to assemble and tie a quilt or two for the Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilt program. You are welcome to join us and/or propose other charity projects.





## Empower Dreams with RaiseRight Gift Cards, See's Candies, and an October Dine-out at Applebee's

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone! We contributed \$10,000 towards tuition support for a 4-year-old boy who will be attending his second year of Preschool at our FLC Childrens' Programs this year. He lives with a younger brother in our North Deering neighborhood.

This year's contribution brings our total tuition support provided since our inception in 2014 to \$72,000. Our tuition support is Planting Seeds of Success! Just like a tiny seed grows into a mighty oak, our donation grows into confident, educated, and empowered individuals who will shape the future of our community. What could be better than that?

We are back with our sale of RaiseRight gift cards again in September. Please note that we will be selling RaiseRight gift cards on the third Sunday in September; a change from our usual sales on the first two Sundays of each month. For September, sales will only be on Sunday, September 17. Samples of See's Candies will be available on September 17. Try it; you will love it!

Why not indulge in the sweetness of See's Candies for a worthy cause? Get ready to make a difference while satisfying your sweet tooth! Join us in supporting a heartwarming cause that brings smiles to little faces and brighter futures to young minds. Access and order your See's Candies by linking to our "Give a Child a Chance Yum-Raising storefront for Give a Child a Chance FLC" at: [https://www.yumraising.com/secure/giveaca\\_give\\_a\\_child\\_a\\_chance82/Karkar1764/candy](https://www.yumraising.com/secure/giveaca_give_a_child_a_chance82/Karkar1764/candy) or click on the QR Code below



Treat yourself, your family, and your friends to the ultimate gourmet experience. With every box of See's Candies you purchase, you're not just satisfying your cravings – you're contributing to a child's education journey!

And finally, watch for a time for fellowship at our October Dine-Out Fundraiser at Applebee's.

Join the Movement — purchase gift cards and/or See's Candies and be a part of our Give a Child a Chance ministry effort. Let's make education accessible, dreams achievable, and futures brighter for all of our neighborhood children.

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

[Ec-fund@flcme.org](mailto:Ec-fund@flcme.org)

## **FLC Fuel Assistance Fall Bake Sale is Sunday, October 22nd**

All FLC past bakers and new bakers are welcome. This event was very successful in the past — it added \$600 to the Fuel Assistance fund for our church members, their families and community. We hope this year's event will be as successful.

Through Sunday, September 17th, a pre-order signup sheet will be posted in the entrance hallway for Rich Price's Famous Swedish (Braided) Bread. The loaves will be frozen when picked up on sale day. They can remain frozen for another 2-3 months for your holiday guests and family. They make good French toast and bread pudding. Rich will make a limit of 25, so get your orders in soon. The cost is \$12.00 per loaf.

From September 10th through October 15th, signup sheets will be posted in the entrance hallway for all FLC bakers to sign up to contribute their goodies.

On sale day, October 22nd, please join us after the service and grab a cup of fellowship coffee and then shop for goodies to take home to share with family and friends.

Email Laura Page at [fair@flcme.org](mailto:fair@flcme.org) with any questions about the bake sale or speak with Laura or Susan Bollman at Sunday services, or contact Joleen in the church office.



## **Once Upon a Holiday Fair**

### **Save the Date!**

Calling all crafters, sewers, knitters, and candy-makers!

We are excited to announce that our "Once Upon a Holiday" Christmas Fair will be back in full swing this year on **Saturday, November 18th!** We are hopeful that you wonderful DIYers will set aside some of your amazing crafts and goodies to donate to this worthwhile cause. All proceeds will go to the FLC Fuel Assistance Fund.

We'll also be looking for volunteers to help with this fun community event. Please reach out to [Barb Daggett](#) or [Lorna Leo](#) if you have any questions and to let us know how you would like to be involved. This is always a wonderful event! Watch the bulletins and upcoming newsletters for more details.

Thanks so much and Happy Holidays!

**There will be a Fair Planning meeting on Sunday, October 1st, in the Centennial Room following the worship service. Please join us!**

# St. Ansgar Dedication Sunday

As their congregation was nearing the end of its ministry, St. Ansgar Lutheran Church asked if First Lutheran would be willing to take ownership of three icons that held special meaning to them. We agreed that this would be an appropriate way to remember and honor our former sister church.

There will be a time of dedication for these items (the model ship *Follower*, the *Christus* statue, a painting and a candelabra) during the worship service on September 24th. Pastor Tom Chittick will deliver the sermon that Sunday and talk about these items.

We hope you can attend this special service as we welcome these items that have been entrusted to our care by our brothers and sisters of St. Ansgar.



"Saint Ansgar Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1962" (1962). Businesses & Buildings - Portland Press Herald Still Film Negatives. 238.



**Coming Soon!**



The following items serve as “little guideposts on the footpath to peace,” according to author and pastor Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933):

- to be glad of life, because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars;
- to be satisfied with your possessions but not content with yourself until you have made the best of them;
- to despise nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice;
- to covet nothing of your neighbor’s except [their] kindness of heart and gentleness of manners;
- to think seldom of your enemies, often of your friends and every day of Christ;
- to spend as much time as you can with body and with spirit in God’s out-of-doors.

## Give a Child a Chance

We want to thank the family of Carol Adams for the generous donation to our Give a Child a Chance ministry.

This donation carries on Carol’s legacy of caring and compassion, enabling us to continue making a positive difference in the lives of young learners.

—Give a Child a Chance Team





The significant loss of life and damage caused by the wildfires in Hawaii have turned our prayers and attention to mourning those lost, supporting the survivors and how Lutheran Disaster Response can assist with recovery.

Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. The Big Island of Hawaii has also been impacted by wildfires, and more islands remain vulnerable to additional fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. They will work with them to provide for immediate needs and long-term recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

[Donate Now](#)

*Gifts given specifically to "U.S. Wildfires" will be restricted to, and used in full (100%) for those affected by wildfires.*

Additional Ways to Give

Checks or money orders can be sent to:

Lutheran Disaster Response  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Give by phone at 800-638-3522 (Monday -- Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Central time)



## 15th Annual Empty Bowl Meal

Saturday October 14, 2023 5-7PM  
First Lutheran Church  
132 Auburn St, Portland, ME

Portland Altrusans will be serving up their homemade signature Soups and Chowders—something for everyone so you don't want to miss it!!  
You can even take your bowl home with you!

Adults — \$15, Kids under 10 — \$10

All proceeds benefit Project FEED, the emergency food pantry located in Portland, Maine

# From the Editor

*Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;  
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our Salvation.  
Let us come before him with thanksgiving,  
and extol him with music and song.*

--Psalm 95: 1-2

One of my favorite hymns (of many), is “Onward, Christian Soldiers”. I love the fourth stanza:

*Onward, then, you faithful, Join our happy throng;  
Blend with our your voices, In the triumph song,  
Glory, laud, and honor, Unto Christ the king,  
We through countless ages, With the angels sing.*

Even though I can't carry much of a tune, I love to sing. It fills me with joy when I think of my voice blending not only with those around me in church, but with all those that have gone before us and have raised their voices to God. One of the blessings of attending worship regularly is joining with others your voice in praise and thanksgiving.

Were you able to attend worship over the summer? If you traveled, did you have an opportunity to visit another church? If you spent time outside, did you take a moment to pause and admire the beauty of the world around us and thank God for all that He has created?

I hope that you have taken the time to complete the worship survey. During this time of transition, the Worship Committee will be looking at the survey results and discussing how our services might look. One service or two? A blending of music styles or each style in its own service?

As we continue to discern where the Spirit is leading us, I pray that you continue to attend our services. No matter what your singing ability, come and shout aloud to the rock of our salvation.

In +His Service,  
Bill Mills

## Give a Child a Chance

**SEE'S CANDIES**

**FREE SAMPLES!!  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

**SAMPLE SEE'S CHOCOLATES AND PEANUT BRITTLE**

**GET A TASTE OF THIS DELICIOUS CANDY,  
THEN REGISTER ON OUR YUMRAISING STOREFRONT**

[https://www.yumraising.com/secure/giveaca\\_give\\_a\\_child\\_a\\_chance82/Karkar1764/candy](https://www.yumraising.com/secure/giveaca_give_a_child_a_chance82/Karkar1764/candy)

**ORDER CANDY FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS**

# Thank you to my Secret Prayer Pal!

A few years ago, our Prayer Chain coordinator, Coleen Walther, sent out a call for Secret Prayer Pals for the kids at FLC. While I don't know how many responses she actually received, I do know that Madi was blessed with an AMAZING SPP!

Over the years, her SPP has gone far and above remembering Madi in prayer. Her pal has surprised her with cards and notes, both in the mail and in the FLC mailboxes, and has even left special occasion goodie bags for Madi at church. Everyone likes to get mail, especially kids! Because her Pal's identity is a secret, Madi wanted to find a way to say "thank you".

Madi says, "My Secret Prayer Pal writes me sweet cards and letters every holiday and for my birthday; and leaves me fun goodies. I'm very thankful for my Secret Prayer Pal. I really like knowing someone is praying for me. I just want to say thank you so much for everything!"

She thinks every kid would love to have an SPP! If you have or know of a child you would like to have matched with a Secret Prayer Pal, or if you would like to be a Secret Prayer Pal and bless a child with prayer, please let Coleen know. You may email her at [prayer-request@flcme.org](mailto:prayer-request@flcme.org).

Thank you so much,  
Madi Leo (and her Mamaw, Lorna)



This summer we helped two longtime members celebrate special birthdays.

In July, Robert Mitchell turned 99; in August, Wendy Carey turned 98!

We rejoice with Bob and Wendy as they reach these milestone birthdays, and we ask God to continue to watch over and bless these special people.



*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



Ethan Olson & family  
Abbott Knowles  
Ned Long  
Wendy Carey  
Jack Loveland  
Wayne Heath  
Judy Horn  
Bob Mitchell  
Dave Deuben  
Sue Hayden  
Lynne Fishburn  
FLC Call Committee  
FLC Sunday School  
FLC Church Council  
Bev Beliveau

Jen & Brian Hazelwood  
Paul & Sharon Aube  
The people of Maui  
Victims of racism and hate, especially those in the LGBTQIA+ community  
All victims of violence  
Students, teachers and staff as they return to classes



**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| September 1  | Deborah Sensecqua |
|              | Lynn Carey        |
| September 2  | Brian Carr        |
| September 6  | Dot Selleck       |
|              | Michael McIver    |
| September 8  | Dorothy Sensecqua |
| September 13 | Cooper Hayn       |
| September 14 | Carole Case       |
|              | Cheryl Cyr        |
| September 20 | Alison Smith      |
|              | Deb Heald         |
| September 21 | Emily Cole        |
| September 25 | Joleen Knowles    |
| September 27 | Francie Conley    |
| September 28 | Teddy Hanley      |
| September 29 | Amanda Krantz     |



Labor Day  
September 4

Patriot Day  
September 11



First Day of Autumn  
September 23

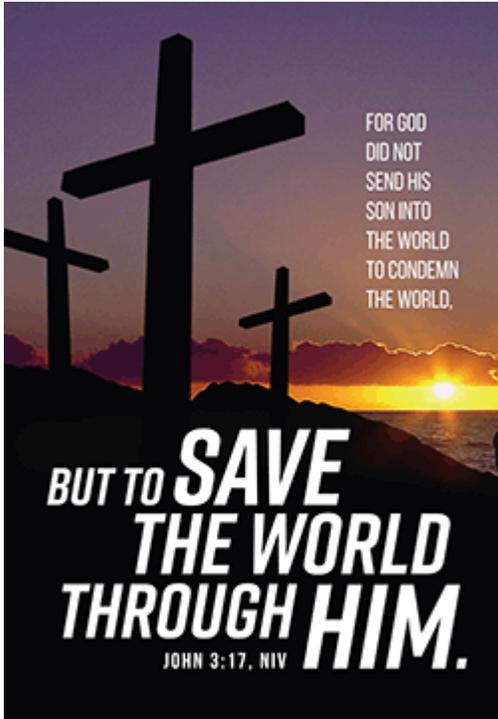


Prayer is such an important part of our daily Christian lives, and sometimes extra prayers are needed. If you have any special prayer requests and you would like to have our "Prayer Warriors" praying as well, please send an email.

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

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

**September 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](mailto:news@flcme.org).

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

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

[www.FLCME.org](http://www.FLCME.org)

**STAFF**

Transitional Pastor ..... Rev. Mark Perry ([mark.perry@flcme.org](mailto:mark.perry@flcme.org))  
Church Secretary.....Joleen Knowles ([joleen.knowles@flcme.org](mailto:joleen.knowles@flcme.org))  
Church Organist..... Brenda Morneau ([brenda.morneau@flcme.org](mailto:brenda.morneau@flcme.org))  
Director—FLC Children’s Community Ministry ..... Sherryl Eastman ([flcpinfo@flcme.org](mailto:flcpinfo@flcme.org))

**OFFICERS**

President ..... Coleen Walther  
Vice-President..... Ann Brown  
Secretary ..... Ken Conant  
Treasurer ..... Ed Daggett  
Financial Secretary ..... Cheryl Cyr