



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"We invite all to share the joy of God's love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ."

Our guiding principles are to:

- "Reflect God's love by being inviting, non-judgmental, compassionate and respectful;
- Work to be dependable and responsive in our community and global efforts;
- Adapt to the changing needs of our congregation;
- Joyfully proclaim the story of God's love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ."

Ministry Team

Robert Neubert
Pastor

Dr. Denise Reed
Worship Musician

Frank Kenny
Administrative Assistant

Sandy Young
Administrative Assistant

Phone: 503-397-0090

E-mail:
1stlutheransh@comcast.net

FROM PASTOR ROBERT

Siblings in Christ,

I have been asked the question many times since I became a pastor, "If Jesus hated money so much, why does the church always ask for money?"

The question is derived from passages such as this:

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:24

While it is my hope that most churches try to uphold this teaching, it does not change the fact that we live in a society where money is required in order to thrive. In several European countries one's church tithe (aka giving) is taken directly out of their paycheck as part of their taxes as long as that individual has declared themselves as a Lutheran, Catholic, Baptist, Anglican, etc... this is not so in the US, therefore we must rely upon the voluntary giving of our individual members. This results in churches often being criticized for talking about money too much or not enough in their attempts to not just grow and gain some measure of success in spreading the Gospel, but also in their attempts to maintain their building and do ministry in the community.

Another issue that Churches face today regarding the topic of money is that many churches have become obsessed with fundraising and/or have abused their positions of power and used money inappropriately. We have congregations that openly tell people that if they give, God will "bless them with riches" promoting what is known as the "Prosperity Gospel" which implies that all people who are "rich" are blessed by God and that one can measure how "blessed" they are by how much money they have. These are often church organizations with pastors who have multimillion dollar mansions, private Jets and giant buildings that sometimes put NFL stadiums to shame. The problem with the "Prosperity Gospel" is that those who practiced this kind of belief system were openly condemned by Jesus in all four of the Gospels.

It is possible for someone with great wealth to be a follower of Jesus, and it is possible for churches with a lot of wealth to do great things, it all depends upon what their priorities are.

Continued on page 5

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Cathy Bowcock (2027)

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cbowcock7@gmail.com

Caroline DuBois (2028)

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Mike McCoy (2027)

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Rodney Sherpe

503-543-2251
stjohnsladyhawks@yahoo.com

Audrey Webster, Vice-President (2027)

503-397-5866
abw1@comcast.net

Leslie Wilson (2028)

503-522-3505
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Appointed, non-voting:

Jon Vingerud, Treasurer, Assistant Financial Secretary

503-397-1838 (H) 503-703-7465 (C)
jonvingerud@comcast.net

Cathy Bowcock, Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Financial Secretary
Barbara Gordon, Financial Secretary

503-407-9044 (C)
bdbg@comcast.net

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The First Lutheran Church Council met on October 12, 2025. The meeting was called to order by President Rodney Sherpe.

- ♦ **September 2025 Minutes:** The council reviewed the minutes from the September 2025 meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.
- ♦ **Treasurer's Report:** Jon Vingerud presented the financial report. He reported that as of now, \$30K has been loaned to the general fund this year from reserves to cover lower than anticipated giving. There have been no unusual expenses. It was moved and seconded that the financial report be approved. The motion was approved unanimously.
- ♦ **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Robert reported that the bible study on Christian Nationalism was very successful, with over 20 attendees each week. Many expressed interest in learning more about immigration.
- ♦ **President's Report:** President Rodney stated that one thing that made the Christian Nationalism study so successful was the ability to freely share opinions and discuss topics without worrying about being judged.

Committee Reports:

- ♦ **Properties:** Pastor Robert shared that Properties has been discussing how to change the lights over to LED's now that fluorescent tubes won't be available anymore. They are also looking at what would need to be done to replace thermostats and heating to be able to operate and check remotely.
- ♦ **Social Ministries & Outreach:** Mike McCoy said there will be a Red Cross blood drive at the church on November 7. Consideration on what to do with the church sign on the corner of 4th and Wyeth is continuing. They are also looking into welcome packets for visitors/new members and new tri-fold brochures.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS—cont.

- ♦ **Habitat for Humanity:** Leslie Wilson that the new home build is happening. She also reported that Habitat is buying back one of their houses and is looking for volunteers to help clean and repair damage.
 - ♦ **Community Meals** - Cathy Bowcock shared that they have had volunteers to help with dishwashing, media outreach and a website. There will be a turkey dinner on November 25th and a ham dinner in December.
 - ♦ **Social Media** – Mark Hagelberg (Website) & Pastor Robert (FB). No report.
 - ♦ **Worship & Music** – Written report.
 - ♦ **Fellowship** – – Jessie McClintock reported that she had a lot of positive feedback from the Ecumenical picnic in September.
 - ♦ **Christian Education**—President Rodney stated he spoke to Katie Garman and reminded her that we have funds available for her use for Christian Education.
 - ♦ **Mutual Ministry**—Pastor Robert stated that a meeting has been scheduled.
- Old Business:**
- ♦ For “second offering”, the following activities are planned:
Peanut butter drive for the Backpack Program is currently ongoing and a toiletry drive is planned for Advent season.
- New Business:**
- ♦ Habitat for Humanity’s request to have members provide a blessing and sign the framing walls of the new house was discussed. Pastor Robert suggest that Reformation Sunday, October 26th, may be a good time for that.
 - ♦ The Stewardship campaign is coming up in November. Pastor Robert put out a call for volunteers to provide a “Temple Talk” that shares people’s insights and journeys regarding giving to the church.
- Review of the November Calendar:** Two changes.
- Good of the Order/Announcements:**
- ♦ Kate Freitag will be gone for the November meeting.
- Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.**

TREASURER’S UPDATE

Information as of October 31, 2025

Jon Vingerud (our esteemed treasurer) is on vacation and will provide the updates for both October and November in the December newsletter.



CONTEMPLATIVE GROUP

The Contemplative Group continues to meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome! Contact Mariel McMullen 503-396-1646 or mariel.mcmullen@live.com



THANKSGIVING MEAL



Community Meals will be serving a traditional Thanksgiving dinner on Tuesday, November 25th, with turkey, gravy, dressing, etc. You are invited to join them for this celebration.

SERVING IN NOVEMBER

November 2

Ushers: Norris & Caleb Sundeen
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Kate Freitag
 Lay Reader: Bailey and Vincent
 Communion Server: Frank Kenny
 Communion Prep: Katie Garman
 Comm. Clean-up: Audrey Webster
 Tech: Kitty Heide
 Altar Flowers: The Flower Angel
 Coffee/Fellowship: Congregation

November 23

Ushers: Mike & Linda McCoy
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Kate Freitag
 Lay Reader: TBD
 Communion Server: TBD
 Communion Prep: TBD
 Comm. Clean-up: Geri Logan
 Tech: Kitty Heide
 Altar Flowers: The DuBois'
 Coffee/Fellowship: TBD

November 9

Ushers: The Meyers
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Frank Kenny
 Lay Reader: Sandy Young
 Communion Server: Vincent Yellott
 Communion Prep: TBD
 Comm. Clean-up: Donna Meyers
 Tech: Kitty Heide
 Altar Flowers: Linda Easterling
 Coffee/Fellowship: The McCoy's

November 30

Ushers: Matt & Kate Freitag
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Frank Kenny
 Lay Reader: Henrik & Ally Vingerud
 Communion Server: TBD
 Communion Prep: TBD
 Comm. Clean-up: Geri Logan & Ally
 Tech: Teri Sherpe
 Altar Flowers: The Vingerud Family
 Coffee/Fellowship: The Vingerud's

November 16

Ushers: Terry Rude & Rodney Sherpe
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Enid Schantz-Hagelberg
 Lay Reader: Vincent Yellott
 Communion Server: TBD
 Communion Prep: TBD
 Comm. Clean-up: TBD
 Tech: Teri Sherpe
 Altar Flowers: Terry Rude
 Coffee/Fellowship: The Anderson's



CELEBRATING



1 Doug Wilson
 2 Agnes Clark
 4 Enid Schantz-Hagelberg
 5 Chuck Garman
 7 Sue Christophersen, Katie Garman
 11 Jayne Schilling, Leslie Wilson
 17 Nick Fincher
 20 Casandra Cohn
 21 Kay Kallberg
 22 Terry Rude
 25 Tanner Boyle

26 Linda Easterling
 29 Joanna Jauron
 30 Lynn Boyle



25 Don & Linda Bolieu
 27 Steve & Caroline DuBois



FROM PASTOR ROBERT—CONT.

I have been to churches in poor communities that only talk about money, and take every chance they can to try and guilt people into giving more and more. I have been to churches in wealthy communities where they brought in more money than was needed for their own community, and instead of expanding their building beyond what they need they instead give all the excess funds to help various nonprofit organizations in the area. Money is a central component in the world that we live in and due to the way that our society is set up we must rely upon the donations of people like you. Therefore, it is very important that we are good stewards of the gifts that we receive.

If we wish to serve the communities that surround us by spreading the Gospel through word and deed then we need people to proclaim it, and we need the tools to support them. These tools come in many shapes and sizes, and unfortunately not too many of them are free. One of the tools we have in this community is our building and its versatility. For many years now this building has not only hosted gatherings related to ministries sponsored by this congregation, but it has also served as a hub for the local community to host outside organizations. Yet beyond the confines of this building that we love and share the most important tool that we have is you. Therefore it is our Job to love and support you through inspiring worship, community building, education, and loving and caring for one another.

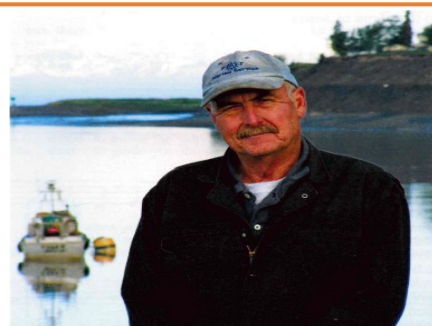
Throughout First Lutheran's 101 years of ministry it has remained a vibrant, growing, and evolving community that has a bright future ahead. Yet as we look ahead and get excited about the new ministry opportunities that are possible let us not forget about today, and the ministry that we are doing now. So as we enter into that time of year when we look at stewardship please take some time and discern in what ways you are able to continue supporting the ministries of First Lutheran, and what ways you may wish to grow in that support either with your time or financially.

"Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God." – 1 Peter 4:10

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Robert

MIKE EASTERLING

Mike Easterling died on October 28, 2025 after a long battle with Alzheimer's. May Mike find peace now in the arms of our Heavenly Father. A funeral service will be held on **Saturday, May 15th, at 12:00 p.m.** at First Lutheran with a luncheon following. Please keep Linda, Mike's family and his many, many friends in your prayers as they navigate through this difficult time.



WITH GRATITUDE



THANK YOU for hosting the wildly fun and successful Chili Cook-off and Talent Show! Guests were faced with the delightful challenge of tasting 15 delicious chilis. Special thanks to Katie Garman for the impressive pile of cornbread muffins and to all those who donated baked goods. Congratulations to Henrik for winning best chili! The evening was made even more special by the talented performers and John Stevens, who captivated us all with his interactive magic show. We are grateful to Pastor Robert and everyone who contributed to making this a joyful and successful event.

Jennifer Anderson

"KODIAK"

This year's Drawing Quilt is outstanding! "Kodiak" was made with the loving hands of Katie Garman (she created the top), Sue Christophersen, Shirley Frigaard, Enid Schantz-Hagelberg, Beth Hunnicutt and Judy Ann Johnson (these ladies did all the hand sewing). Two other quilts, All the Ducks in a Row" and "Tropical Paradise" are also being offered.

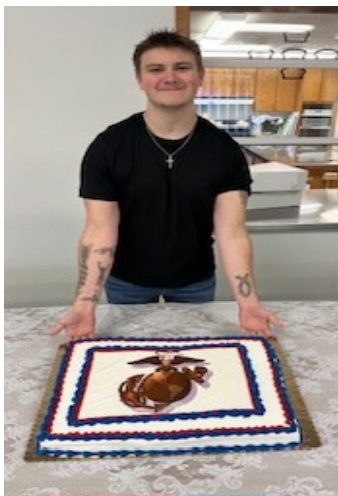
Tickets are only \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for six tickets.

Tickets can be purchased any Sunday up to December 7th when we will have the drawing.

So, Break Open Your Piggy Banks and buy as many tickets as you would like!!



CONGRATULATIONS CALEB SUNDEEN



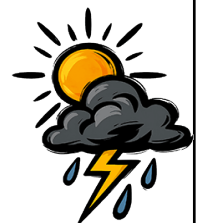
Thank you to everyone who has celebrated and supported Caleb Sundeen with his enlistment in the United States Marine Corps. Caleb will be leaving for boot camp on November 17th and we are so extremely excited for, and proud of him. Caleb is eager to get to boot camp and begin his training which will extend over the next four years. There is comfort knowing Caleb's devotion and faith in our Lord and know God will guide him every step of the way. We will make sure to keep everyone posted on Caleb's location and his endeavors throughout his time in the Marine Corps, and how to stay in touch with him if you would like. Please keep Caleb in your prayers and well wishes as he embarks on this next chapter.

Semper Fidelis!

GIVING THANKS FOR ALL THINGS

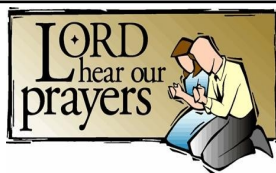
It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?



IN OUR PRAYERS

- Our congregation
- Our nation.
- Peace in our world.
- Refugees and Victims of terrorism and war.
- Those serving in our Armed Forces.
- Police and other first responders.
- Those who suffer from cancer and other terrible diseases and their health care providers.
- Those affected by natural disasters and weather.
- Those in needs of healing for body, mind and soul.
- Those affected by unemployment, lack of housing and hunger.
- Those in recovery.
- For healing and support for *Scott Bauska, Richard and Eileen Bourassa, Carlene Clore, Linda Easterling, Doreen Gordon, Marilyn Hensley, Sandy Hora, Wes Naish, Jayne Schilling, and all others in need of prayers.*



If you would like something specific published in the "In Our Prayers" column, please contact the office.

Pastor Rob and members of FLC Congregation writing prayers and signing their names on the studs of the new Habitat house that is being built. What a blessing for the new family when they move in to know that their new home is filled with blessings and love already.



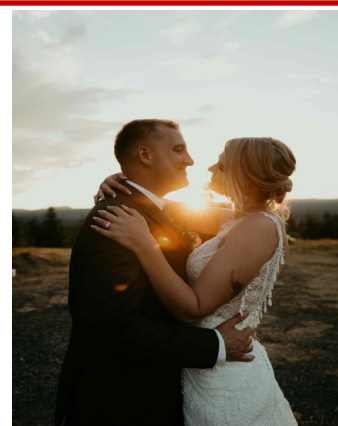
THANK YOU

Thanks for the recent donations of new and used white bed sheets. Volunteers are busy tearing them in strips and rolling them for bandages to send to Global Health Ministries. They are shared with people around the world who are in need of our help.

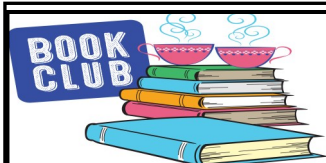


SUNDEEN-VANDERHOFF WEDDING CELEBRATION

As many of you may know, Madison Sundeen was engaged this past year to Jordan Vanderhoff and was married on August 30th! This beautiful day overflowed with faith, joy, love, and laughter in the company of close friends and family. Jordan is soon finishing his military career in the Army and will be home sometime between now and mid-December. The Sundeen family is forever grateful for the prayers, love, and support from our First Lutheran family, as Madison and Jordan begin their lives together.



FLC BOOK CLUB



Book club meets via Zoom on Monday, November 24, at 11 a.m. to discuss *West With Giraffes: A Novel* by Lynda Rutledge. The group has determined the booklist for the

next 12 months. Here they are: December, *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood; January, *The Night Watchman* by Louise Eldrich; February, *Change of Heart* by Jodi Picoult; March, *Accidental Shepherd: How a California Girl Rescued an Ancient Mountain Farm in Norway* by Liese Greensfelder; April, *True Colors* by Kristin Hannah; May, *The Backyard Bird Chronicles* by Amy Tan; June, *My Friends* by Frederic Bachman; July, *The Color of Magic* by Terry Pratchett; August, *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray; September, *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy; and October is free choice, where you read whatever you want and think could be fun to add to the next book list. There is a copy of the above list at the church office that also includes book descriptions. If you aren't already a book club member and want to join in on any or all of the book discussions, please contact Candice Becker so she can add you to the email list. beckerscrcl@comcast.net.

FOOD BANK

To All the People of First Lutheran Church:

As the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas are approaching, we find that we have many blessings to be **thankful** for. Unfortunately, not all are as blessed as we are. I just wanted to remind everyone that we do have a food barrel located near the entrance on the Wyeth Street side of the church. The barrel is for canned food or dry foods no more than a year past the expiration date. **No** perishables. So, as you are going through your cupboards and find extra food that needs to get used or if you are shopping, I ask you to remember others who could use it now. This is a great way to help support the Columbia Pacific Food Bank in St. Helens. With all the uncertainty happening right now with SNAP and other food resources, any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Blessings to you all from your Church Council President, Rodney Sherpe.



THANK YOU



Thank you to Pastor Rob and Geri and our First Lutheran family for making Clara's 100th birthday special. She enjoyed all the attention, cards and special messages. She feels very loved and appreciated. Thank you everyone.

Janet

FLC RECIPE CORNER

This month the recipe is from Geri Logan.

This recipe was given to my mother by our beloved neighbor Ruby Collis. It is a family favorite for sure and so easy to make.

RUBY'S COBBLER

2 ½ Cups fruit (berries work really well, but other fruit can be used)

½ Cup sugar

½ teaspoon cinnamon

Combine the fruit, sugar and cinnamon in a bowl and set aside.

Batter:

1/4 cup butter

1/2 cup sugar

1/2 tsp. vanilla

1/2 cup milk

1 cup flour

1/4 tsp. salt

2 tsps. Baking powder

Beat sugar and butter together until light & fluffy. Add milk and vanilla and beat until well mixed. Combine flour, salt and baking powder together and add to mixture, beat well. Pour the cake batter into an 8 or 9 inch square baking dish. Add the fruit mixture on top, then pour one cup of boiling water over the top.

Bake in a 375 degree oven for 40-45 minutes. This recipe can be doubled and put into a 13x9 inch baking dish.



QUILT BLESSING



The sanctuary all decked out with quilts waiting to be blessed for the LWR Ingathering. Thank you to everyone who worked so diligently to assemble these quilts.

GUILD MEETINGS



LADIES GUILD

Mary Guild is meeting again at Avamere with a few members from Sarah Guild attending, also. You are invited to

join them on the third Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. You are welcome to stay for lunch following in the Avamere dining room. Lunch tickets are \$5.00.

CONTEMPLATIVE GROUP

The Contemplative Group continues to meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome! Contact Mariel McMullen 503-396-1646 or mariel.mcmullen@live.com



DEVOTIONALS

The "Christ in Our Home" publication for October- December is now available.

It is important we

find some quiet time to spend with our Lord.

"Christ in Our Home" is a useful tool for that contemplation. The devotionals are located at both entrances and are available in both regular and large print versions.



MONTHLY SCRIPTURES

Below are the scripture lessons for November.

November 2: Isaiah 1:10-18, Psalms 32:1-7, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12, Luke 19:1-10

November 9: Job 19:23-27a, Psalms 17:1-9, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17, Luke 20:27-38

November 16: Malachi 4:1-2a, Psalms 98, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19

November 23: Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalms 46, Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43

November 30: Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalms 122, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have any submissions for the December newsletter into the office by **Wednesday, November 19th**. Thank you.



DEADLINE:
Newsletter Articles

ADVENT COLLECTION

Beginning the first Sunday in Advent, November 30th, we will be collecting toiletries throughout the Advent Season. Please bring the items to worship service each Sunday where we will be placing them on the altar. Let's see how crowded we can make the altar for Pastor Robert by December 21. Following that, the items will be packed up and distributed to those in need.

Suggested items include:

Women's personal hygiene products such as Tampons Toothbrushes and toothpaste, dental floss

Bar soap and shower soap

Shampoo

Combs and brushes

Towels

Kleenex

Lip Balm

Deodorant

Body lotion

Razors and shaving cream

Toenail clippers

Hand wipes

Baby Wipes

Diapers

Ziploc Bags

Also, we will collect socks, stocking hats and gloves



Personal Products Collection

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

An Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, November 23, at 3:00 p.m. at St. Frederic Catholic Church. The address is 175 S. 13th St. The service is being presented by the St. Helens Ministerial Association.



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

CHILDREN'S SERMON



First Lutheran
Church
St. Helens, OR

 NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 ALL SAINTS' DAY 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 am. Fellowship	3 7:00 p.m. AlAnon	4 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 1:00 p.m. WELCA 5:00 p.m. Exec. Committee 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Properties Meeting	5 10:00 a.m. Quilters & Crafters	6 	7 10:00 am - 7:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive	1 9:00 am to 3:00 pm 
9 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 am. Fellowship 11:30 am. Church Council	10 7:00 p.m. AlAnon	11 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study VETERANS DAY	12 10:00 a.m. Quilters & Crafters	13 10:00 a.m. Contemplative Group 1:00 p.m. Peace by Piece	14	8 Fellowship Hall in Use All Day and Evening
16 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 am. Fellowship	17 10:30 am. Mary Guild at Avamere 7:00 p.m. AlAnon	18 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	19 10:00 a.m. Quilters & Crafters 1:00 p.m. Worship & Music	20	21	15 12:00 p.m. Funeral Service for Mike Easterling
23 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 am. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 	24 11:00 am. Book Club 7:00 p.m. AlAnon 	25 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	26 10:00 a.m. Quilters & Crafters	27 Thanksgiving Day 	28	29
30 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 am. Fellowship 						

First Lutheran Church
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St. Helens, OR 97051

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The Skylight

November 2025

First Lutheran Church

The Skylight
is the monthly newsletter of
First Lutheran Church

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