



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

Christ is Risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

So now that we have said the words, what now? What does it mean to worship the risen Christ?

In our Gospel narratives there was a lot of fear and confusion amongst the disciples following the events of Easter Sunday. Most if not all of them were very confused as to what they were supposed to do, and confused regarding all that had happened. In Mark the women who witness the empty tomb run in fear not telling anyone what they had seen. In Matthew's Gospel the religious leaders are scrambling to tell lies about Jesus in order to cover up the resurrection so that no one believes the disciples who were still confused by all that was happening. In Luke the disciples think the women are lying when they hear about the resurrection and choose to ignore them. Finally in John's Gospel the disciples are found hiding in fear before Jesus appears amongst them and brings them some comfort.

As you can see, fear was the primary guiding emotion in the hours, days, and for some weeks, following Christ's resurrection, and that is a pretty typical human response to things that we do not immediately understand. Yet in these same Gospel narratives there are stories that illustrate how we can conquer that fear, the best of which is found in the Gospel of Luke and it involves two Disciples who were walking down the road one day.

Read Luke 24:13-35

The story opens up with two of Jesus' disciples traveling to the village of Emmaus and along the way they meet a stranger. The stranger professes an ignorance regarding the events of the past few days so the disciples then attempt to explain who Jesus was and all that has happened in Jerusalem. Through this conversation the disciples begin to better understand these events and learn more about how these events relate to scripture.

Continued on Pg. 5

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

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Audrey Webster, Vice President (2025)

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Appointed, non-voting:
Jon Vingerud, Treasurer, Assistant Financial Secretary

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

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



The First Lutheran Church Council met on March 10, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Audrey Webster.

NOA 1: Ben Ruff brought a request to the Council that an adult Bible study be started up. Pastor Robert shared that he is planning on starting that up both in person and on Zoom once he has had a chance to get a little bit settled and figures out his schedule.

NOA 2: Beth Hunnicut brought an issue with the website not being updated. She is volunteering to pay for the website to be updated. Council shared with her that Mark Hagelberg is working on that. Pastor Rob talked to Mark last week about the

changes he wants to see, like updated events, weekly services posted, etc. Council also shared that there is adequate funding in the approved 2024 budget to update the website.

- ◆ **Financial Report:** Jon Vingerud gave the financial report, which was approved.
- ◆ **Pastors' Report:** Pastor Rob has been here one week and has presided over two. Has met with local area pastors to start building those relationships. He has met with a young couple who wants to get married here. He will be out of the area on April 21st. Normal office work week will be Tues-Thurs 10-3 and will also likely be around on Mondays and Fridays with fluctuating hours. He does encourage if people want to have a longer conversation or meeting that they work with the church secretary to make an appointment.

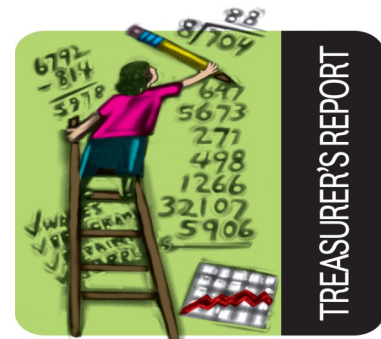
TREASURER'S UPDATE

Information as of Mar 31, 2024

	Mar 31 <u>Actuals</u>	Mar 31 <u>Budget</u>		<u>Difference</u>
General Fund (GF) Income	\$ 47,015	\$ 55,125	\$ 8,110	behind budget
General Fund (GF) Expenses	\$ 41,975	\$ 55,125	\$ 13,150	under budget
Borrowed from GF Reserves [Jan 1]	\$ 10,730			
<u>Available</u> Checking Acct Balance	\$ 15,770			

Our Income is ahead of expenses through March. Thank you!
Please let me know if you have any questions.
Thanks for all of your continued support.

Jon...



CHURCH COUNCIL Cont.

Committee Reports:

- Fellowship - Tim Meyers reported that planning has begun for the Easter Breakfast.
- Website - Mark Hagelberg will be the website contact person and Pastor Robert has been added as an admin on the Facebook account..

Old Business:

- ♦ Tim reported on the joint service with St. Frederic Catholic Church. He felt the service was very successful and was very hopeful for further future relationship building with them. Pastor Robert mentioned that there is a St. Helens ministerium that meets monthly where the clergy has opportunities to build those ecumenical relationships.

New Business:

- Appointment of Financial Secretary & Treasurer was held with Jon Vingerud continuing as treasurer and Barbara Gordon as financial secretary.

Election of Council officers was held. Audrey Webster was elected as Vice President, Kate Freitag as Secretary with a deferral on the election of president until the next meeting.

- ♦ Committee assignments will be finalized at the next council meeting.
- ♦ Council retreat was discussed.
- ♦ Holy Week services were noted.

CONTEMPLATIVE GROUP

The Women's Contemplative Group will be meeting on April 11, 2024 at 10:00 a.m All are welcome!
Contact Mariel McMullen 503-396-1646 or mariel.mcmullen@live.com

SERVING IN APRIL

April 7

Ushers: The Sundeen's
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Frank Kenny
 Lay Reader: Beth Hunnicutt
 Communion Server: Clara Neubert
 Comm Prep. Candice Becker
 Comm. Clean-up: Audrey Webster
 Tech: Kitty Heide
 Altar Flowers: Lilies & Palms
 Coffee Fellowship: TBD

April 14

Ushers: Tim Meyers & Kathy Bauska
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Kate Freitag
 Lay Reader: Sandy Young
 Communion Server: Linda McCoy
 Comm Prep. TBD
 Comm. Clean-up: Donna Meyers
 Tech: Kitty Heide
 Altar Flowers: Don & Rose Jensen
 Coffee Fellowship: The Anderson's

April 21

Ushers: Terry Rude & Ben Ruff
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Frank Kenny
 Lay Reader: Katie Garman
 Communion Server: Katie Garman
 Comm Prep. Rowan Becker
 Comm. Clean-up: Geri Logan
 Tech: Kitty Heide
 Altar Flowers: Jon & Jackie Vingerud
 Coffee Fellowship: Jon & Jackie Vingerud

April 28

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



Thank you to everyone who has signed up as lay helpers. We are al-

ways still looking for more volunteers. Watch for the May sign-up sheets and lets fill them, too.

CELEBRATING



- 2 Troy Weiss
- 4 Craig Tolleshaug
- 7 Penny Miller
- 10 Troy Sundeen
- 13 Susie Tolleshaug
- 16 Edee Douglas
- 17 Rose Jensen
- 19 Maria Weiss
- 21 Kathy Bauska
- 28 Joan Beck



- 22 Jon & Jackie Vingerud
- 24 Dax & Lynn Boyle
- 26 Andrew & Kristin Niemi
- 29 Jessie & Mike McClintock

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Please have any submissions for the May newsletter into the office by Monday, **April 22nd.** Thank you!

PASTOR ROBERT—CONTINUED

This part of the story reminds us of the importance of sharing our beliefs and stories with others. In so doing we not only share a part of who we are and the things that we have experienced but also we are able to deepen and broaden our own understanding of what these experiences mean in our lives. Through conversations with friends and family we are able to hear new ideas, and new ways of looking at things that we might not have thought of before. Conversations with family and friends are important, but so is engaging with those outside our social bubbles. By engaging with those we may not know or may not agree with we are able to both challenge our own ideas and possibly deepen our beliefs. Through deep and enriching conversations with people both inside and outside our community we are able to create space where community can grow and thrive.

In the next part of the story the disciples invite the stranger to come have a meal with them and in that meal the presence of Christ is revealed and the disciples learn that Jesus has in fact been with them this entire time. This helps remind us as Christians that Jesus is truly present when we invite others into fellowship with us. That community is about welcoming outsiders and inviting them into fellowship at our tables. Through this act we reveal a piece of our selves while inviting them to reveal a piece of who they are in an intimate and giving way.

So this Easter season I wish to issue a challenge to all of you. To invite someone who has never been to your home into your home. To have fellowship with them and to treat them to a piece of who you are. By doing this I hope you discover new ways that Christ is being revealed in your life.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Robert



THE JOY OF JESUS



The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Here at Habitat we're wrapping up the last of our funding for last year's matched savings plan for home repairs and home purchase. The Oregon IDA is a terrific program that grants state funding for low income individuals seeking to purchase their first home or for expensive home repairs. You can learn more here:

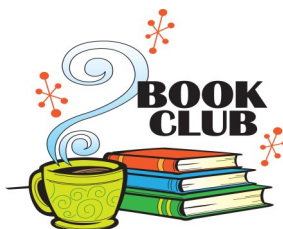
<https://habitatcolumbiacounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/arial-brochure.pdf>

Next month we should be receiving word about funding for 2024. If anyone in your congregation might be interested in learning more about possibly participating, please reach out to our office either by calling 971-203-0020 or



BOOK CLUB

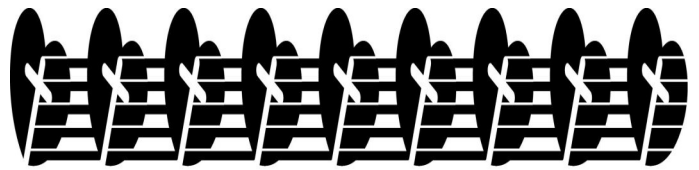
Book club meets on Monday, April 29, at 11 a.m. via Zoom. The book up for discussion is "The Wager" by David Grann. If you are interested in joining the group regularly, or for a specific month, you're welcome; you just need to add your email address to our list by contacting Candice Becker. Here is the list of books for upcoming months: May, "The Twilight Garden" by Sara Nisha Adams; June, "Someone Else's Shoes" by JoJo Moyes; July, "The Big Thirst" by Charles Fishman; August, "Pineapple Street" by Jenny Jackson; September, "The Lilac Girls of Ravensbruck" by Martha I Kelly; and October, "Vincent & Theo" by Deborah Heiligman.



DEVOTIONALS



The "Christ in Our Home" publication for April through June 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. These devotionals are located at both main entrances and are available in both regular and large-print versions.



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.
- Victims of Covid-19 and health care providers.
- Those affected by natural disasters and weather.
- Those in need of healing for body, mind, or soul.
- Those affected by unemployment, lack of housing and hunger.
- Those in recovery.
- Clara Jensen, Wes Naish, Carlene Clore, Wynn Reader, Kim Mathisen, Doreen Gordon, Marilyn Hensley, Harold Gullickson, Ashleigh Dahlgren, Scott Wright, Cheryl Perkins, Sandy Young and all others in need of prayers.



If you would like something specific published in the "In Our Prayers" column, please contact the office. 503-397-0090

PASTOR BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Robert is hosting two Bible Studies on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (immediately following Community Meals so come enjoy a meal and stay for bible study!) Join anytime. We are currently studying the lectionary texts (may include the texts for the upcoming month).
Peace,
Pastor Robert



EASTER BREAKFAST



Thank you to Tim and Donna Meyers and their crew of helpers for providing a wonderful and delicious breakfast

for all of us on Easter morning. To all who provided food—a big thank you! For all who helped set up and clean up—you were amazing. But the best part was the fellowship and love that was felt during the breakfast.

CHOIR

There will be no choir practice for a few weeks.. Dr. Reed will announce when practice starts up again. Thank you to Dr. Reed and the choir for sharing your beautiful voices with us during worship.



SECOND LANGUAGE??

Do you know a second language or maybe even a third? We are looking to do a special service with multiple languages in the near future. Please let the church office know if you do speak another language.

GOD LOVES YOU!
BŪH TĚ MILUJE!
GOD HOUDT VANJE!
DIYOS LOVES MO!
DIEU T'AIME!
GOTT LIEBT DICH!
ALLA TKUNUTISTGHU!
DEUS AMA VOCĚ!
DIOS TE AMA!
NDAGUKUNDA!
NINAPENDA WEWE!
DUWCARU CHI!

EASTER LILIES

A sincere thank you to everyone who donated to purchase the Easter lilies including Charlie Boelk in memory of his wife, Shelby, and Edee Douglas in memory of her son, Brian.

Thank you also to Caroline DuBois for ordering the lilies, picking them up and displaying them in the Sanctuary. They were beautiful.



100th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

WOW! Who would have thought that 3 years ago when we started talking about the 100th anniversary celebration that it would be here already. If you haven't responded with your RSVP, please do so as soon as you can. It will make the final preparation so much easier.

RSVP
PLEASE



A cute thank you to Katie Garman from a couple children who were the recipients of her Easter gifts. And a special thank you to Katie for all your hard work with the kids.



It looks like Rodney Sherpe is having way too much fun in Mexico at his daughter's wedding.



Our beautiful Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Thank you to Pastor Robert for getting the balloons and helium tanks and to everyone else who helped with the decorating. It was a glorious Easter service filled with so much joy and excitement that HE HAS RISEN!

GUILD UPDATES



LADIES GUILD

Mary Guild meets on the 3rd Monday of every month at Avamere. This month's meeting is Monday, April 15th, at 10AM for hymn singing, a bible verse and just connecting. There is an option to stay for lunch if you wish at 11:00 AM. There is NO reservation required for lunch, but you should buy a lunch ticket for \$5 at the front desk. **First Lutheran members** who are residents at Avamere include Marilyn Hensley, Doreen Gordon and Vonny Paintner.

Sarah Guild will meet on Tuesday, April 16 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The bible study will be out of the Gather magazine.

Zoom Guild meets online on Monday, April 8 at 11:00 a.m. The group will be

BUNCO

Bunco Bunch currently only has 11 regular players, and we need 12 to play 3 tables. If anyone is interested in rolling dice and having some fellowship, please let one of the players know.



Additional alternates are also needed. Bunco action takes place on the 3rd Friday of the month, April 19, at 6:30 p.m. The evening typically ends at 8:30. Here is current list of players: Candice and Cora Becker, Judy Ann Johnson, Cheryl and Missy Knight, Geri Logan, Teresa Sherpe and her sister Vicki, Margaret Smith, Audrey Webster, and Sandy Young.

WELCA NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL

No mtg the first Tuesday.

HIGH TEA mark your calendars for April 6th....**COME AND ENJOY THE FUN AFTERNOON.** Details elsewhere in The Skylight and Weekly Window.

COLLECTION CENTER

We are in the process of updating the information on all of the various items that can be donated (from white bed sheets to pull tabs). Watch for updates!

Ponte En Mis Zapatos (put yourself in my shoes) will continue. All practical types of shoes for **KIDS, MOMS, & DADS** can be donated. A great place to donate to after you have done the spring cleaning or even watch for gently used shoes at garage sales or resale shops. There is a large grey tote in the collection center for your donations. When the tote is full we deliver to the nonprofit for shipping to Mexico ☐☐.

LWR Baby Care Kits will again be assembled in 2024. Soon we will have diapers cut & out for you to hem! The other items are the same as last year. All clothing needs to be **6 to 24 months in size:**

- ♦ **Cotton t-shirts**
- ♦ **Sleepers or gowns w/ long or short sleeves**
- ♦ **Cotton receiving blankets (36 - 52 inches square)**
- ♦ **Jacket, sweatshirt, or sweater (with hood or add a cap)**
- ♦ **Socks**
- ♦ **Gentle soap - bath size**
- ♦ **Diaper pins**



Baby Care Kits

Questions about this project look on the Lutheran World Relief website, or talk to Cathy or Donna.

GET CREATIVE

WELCA has decided to hold our "annual" Harvest Bazaar in November as it has been done in the past. It will be November 2, 2024. Now is the time to start creating items to be sold at the bazaar. Watch for more details as they emerge.



IN APPRECIATION

Great Job!

Many thanks to all who helped to make the March 9th service happen. This search for unity is ordained by God in scripture, and your support and willingness to be involved allowed reconciliation to begin. Please continue to prayerfully consider what “next steps” can help to further the process. The five Ecumenical Imperatives we pledged to follow were a commitment not to be forgotten.



Check the bulletin board in the fellowship hall for the collage of photos supplied by St Frederic’s.

Tim Meyers

A special thank you to Steve and Caroline DuBois and everyone else who helped “spruce” up the church’s exterior in preparation for the Easter season and beyond. Everything looks beautiful!



Thank You!



We are so blessed to have some very “special angels” among us here at FLC. I won’t name them for fear of leaving someone out, but I’m sure you know who they are! Please take a moment to

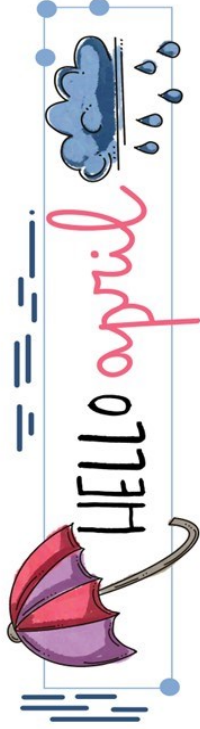
thank them for all they do. It is a labor of love for them and we reap the results of that love. And, we can always use more “angels”.

LOVE IN ACTION


The First Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Helens has partnered with CCHFH since 2020 with dedicated prayers and \$5000 pledges towards the completion of each Habitat home. Congregation members have also jumped in with construction of these projects. Sporting “God’s work; Our hands” T-shirts, volunteers have assembled Ikea kitchen cabinets, painted walls and pounded nails along the way. The First Lutheran Quilting group even created custom quilts for the families’ children. These tangible efforts solidify Habitat’s mission in demonstrating God’s love in action by working to create affordable homes for our neighbors. Although our current build in Vernonia is a fair distance from the other Habitat homes in St. Helens, we were delighted to hear of their willingness to continue their partnership with this project as well! While the miles might prevent many from contributing to the hands-on construction work, the prayers and financial support are treasured. We are also proud to declare that the church members have now completed their pledge for this home! Thank you to First Lutheran !



First Lutheran
Church
St. Helens, OR



2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 p.m. AIAnon	2 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 1:00 pm WELCA 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Properties Meeting	3 10:00 a.m. Quilters & Crafters 6:30 p.m. AA Meditation	4 7:00 p.m. AIAnon	5 12:00 pm Parents Anonymous	6 2:00 p.m. WELCA Tea at Caples House 
7 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 am. Fellowship 2:00 p.m. Funeral Service	8 11:00 a.m. Zoom Guild 7:00 p.m. AIAnon	9 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Executive Comm. 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	10 10:00 a.m. Quilters & Crafters 6:30 p.m. AA Meditation	11 10:00 am Contemplative Group 1:00 p.m. Piece by Peace 7:00 p.m. AIAnon	12 12:00 pm Parents Anonymous	13
14 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 am. Fellowship 11:30 am. Church Council	15 10:00 a.m. Mary Guild at Avamere 7:00 p.m. AIAnon	16 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Sarah Guild 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	17 10:00 a.m. Quilters & Crafters 3:30 p.m. Worship & Music 6:30 p.m. AA Meditation	18 1:00 p.m. 100th Anniversary Meeting 7:00 p.m. AIAnon	19 12:00 pm Parents Anonymous	20
21 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 am. Fellowship	22 7:00 p.m. AIAnon	23 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	24 10:00 a.m. Quilters & Crafters 6:30 p.m. AA Meditation	25 7:00 p.m. AIAnon	26 12:00 pm Parents Anonymous	27 1:00 p.m. Shelby Boelk Memorial Service
28 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 am. Fellowship	29 11:00 a.m. Book Club 7:00 p.m. AIAnon	30 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:00 p.m. Bible Study				



First Lutheran Church
360 Wyeth St.
St. Helens, OR 97051

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The Skylight

April 2024

First Lutheran Church

The Skylight
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