



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

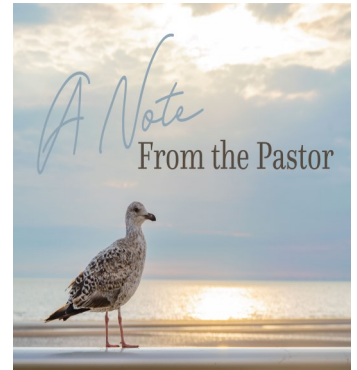
Phone: 503-397-0090

E-mail:
1stlutheransh@comcast.net

FROM PASTOR ROBERT

Siblings in Christ,

Though this may be an exciting time for First Lutheran as you welcome my family and I into your community, I want to remind everyone that on Wednesday February 14th we celebrated Ash Wednesday and officially kicked off Lent. So if there is any joy or happiness of any kind in your heart it is time to dispel it. Lent is a time of preparation and mourning as we join together to focus on our own guilt, misery, and participation in Christ's death. So Let the fun begin!



Here at First Lutheran we have given up the word "happiness" (sorry printing of this word in it's fullness is not allowed until Easter morning) also there will be absolutely no smiling or any other expressions of joy. To help in this process you are encouraged to stay away from all small children and/or house pets since their cuteness levels are way too high and produce far too many smiles. Please refrain from telling jokes, and definitely do not watch any comedic movies or TV shows. If you do need to watch anything only watch things that would fall under serious minded religious, historical, true crime, political documentaries, or dramatic movies like Dodgeball: A True Underdog's Story or the Naked Gun films. Only things that cause severe frustration, anger, pure logical thought, or depression are considered appropriate. If you find yourself at work or at a friend's house and you feel a smile beginning to crack upon your lips due to the process of actually enjoying one's self, quickly get up and run from the room before those good feelings begin to spread. Do not let those around you cause you to fall into that deep bright pit of sunshine and joy.

In honor of this time of pain and sadness I invite you to read this short explanation of Lent:

In the early years of the Church the period of Lent was a time of intense prayer, instruction, and fasting for Christian initiates as they prepared for baptism. As the Christian Church grew and less and less adult members came into the Church Christians joined in with the initiates during Lent as a way of renewing their faith and commemorating their own baptism. As the years passed it became expected that all Christians would commit themselves during Lent to practicing daily prayer,

Continued on Page 5

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

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Geri Logan (2025)

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Tim Meyers (2025)

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Rodney Sherpe (2025)

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Audrey Webster, Vice President (2025)

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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 February 11, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Audrey Webster.

Financial Report: Jon Vingerud gave the financial report. He reported that giving for the month was good despite the inclement weather.

- ◆ **Pastors' Report:** Pastor Allison reported that there will be an Ash Wednesday service on 2/14 and that her last Sunday with us will be 2/28.

Committee Reports:

- **Properties** - Mark Hagelberg reported that the ADA doors have been delayed but he is still hoping they will be here and installed with the next 30-45 days

- **Social Media** - Mark Hagelberg reported that he will be working on getting the website updated.

Old Business:

- A joint service with St. Frederic Catholic Church is being planned. Tim reported that the Catholic Church will be bringing 3 choirs to the service along with some youth who are looking forward to it.

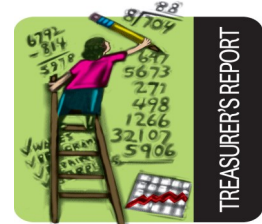
New Business:

- Denise Reed was accepted into church membership on January 28.
- Holden Wicker was baptized on February 4.
- This was the last meeting for the outgoing council members.
- Pastoral transition—Pastor Robert Neubert will start March 1, with his first Sunday leading service on March 3. Pastor Rob's installation will be announced at a later date.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Information as of Feb 29, 2024

	Feb 29 <u>Actuals</u>	Feb 29 <u>Budget</u>		<u>Difference</u>
General Fund (GF) Income	\$ 27,319	\$ 33,923	\$ 6,604	behind budget
General Fund (GF) Expenses	\$ 26,202	\$ 36,750	\$ 10,548	under budget
Borrowed from GF Reserves [Jan 1] **	\$ 10,730			
<u>Available</u> Checking Acct Balance	\$ 11,847			



Our Income is ahead of expenses through February. Thank you!
Our expenses are in line with expectations for this time of year.

** This amount from Reserves is to maintain a checking account balance so all bills can be paid on time.

Please let me know if you have any questions.
Thanks for all of your continued support.

Jon...

COUNCIL Cont.

Announcements:

- Sandy Young was just released to return to work. She and Frank will set up their work schedule again. Sandy asked the Council about her position as Recording Secretary. She was told that it had been a short term position and the Congregational Secretary would now be taking the minutes. Thus, the position was terminated. Sandy was thanked for serving in this role.

CONTEMPLATIVE GROUP

The Women's Contemplative Group will be meeting on March 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m All are welcome!
Contact Mariel McMullen 503-396-1646 or mariel.mcmullen@live.com

Contemplative
GROUP

HIGH TEA

WELCA has scheduled "High Tea" at Caples House on April 6th at 2 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and there is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$30 per person, and we have funds available to assist anyone with the cost. Contact Cathy Bowcock at 503-369-9985 or Donna Meyers at 503-396-2365 if you request assistance.



SERVING IN MARCH

March 3

Ushers: The Sundeen's
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Kate Freitag
 Greeter: Jean LeMont
 Lay Reader: Beth Hunnicutt
 Communion Server: Caroline DuBois
 Comm Prep. Frank Kenny
 Comm. Clean-up: Geri Logan
 Tech: Kitty Heide
 Altar Flowers: The Garman's
 Coffee Fellowship: Fellowship Comm.

March 10

Ushers: Tim Meyers & Kathy Bauska
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Frank Kenny
 Greeter: Donna Meyers
 Lay Reader: Sandy Young
 Communion Server: Katie Garman
 Comm Prep. Katie Garman
 Comm. Clean-up: Donna Meyers
 Tech: Kitty Heide
 Altar Flowers: Don & Rose Jensen
 Coffee Fellowship: Terry & Wendy Rude

March 17

Ushers: Terry Rude & Ben Ruff
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Kate Freitag
 Greeter: TBD
 Lay Reader: Katie Garman
 Communion Server: TBD
 Comm Prep. TBD
 Comm. Clean-up: Audrey Webster
 Tech: Kitty Heide
 Altar Flowers: Jon & Jan Burdett
 Coffee Fellowship: TBD

March 24—Palm Sunday

Ushers: TBD
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Frank Kenny
 Greeter:
 Lay Reader: Dana Marble
 Communion Server: TBD
 Comm Prep. TBD
 Comm. Clean-up: Geri Logan
 Tech: Kitty Heide
 Altar Flowers: Kathy Bauska and
 Caroline DuBois
 Coffee Fellowship: TBD

March 31—Easter Sunday

Ushers: TBD
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Kate Freitag
 Greeter: TBD
 Lay Reader: TBD
 Communion Server: TBD
 Comm Prep. TBD
 Comm. Clean-up: TBD
 Tech: Kitty Heide
 Altar Flowers: Easter Lilies
 Coffee Fellowship: Easter Breakfast

LAY HELPERS NEEDED

As you can see, there are many volunteer spots that need to be filled. Please take a look at the dates, see where you might be able to serve and sign up on the sheets in the Fellowship Hall.



CELEBRATING



MARCH Birthdays

- 2 Bob Clore
- 4 Emelia Reardon
- 6 Kristol Cohn
- 14 Louise Gullickson, Charleton Hanson
- 19 Sandy Hora
- 20 Jean LeMont
- 25 Caroll Uselton
- 26 Janet Abbott
- 29 Scott Becker

MARCH Anniversaries

- 2 Norris & Sharyn Sundeen
- 7 Tom & Christina Vingerud

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Newsletter
DEADLINE

Please have any submissions for the April newsletter into the office by Monday, **March 18th**. Thank you!

PASTOR ROBERT—CONTINUED

acts of penance, abstaining from eating meat, fasting during the daylight hours and refrain from participating in any festivities. Since Christians were not allowed to participate in festivals during this time, festivals such as Mardi Gras grew in popularity so that Christians could get all the partying out of their systems before entering into the season of Lent. This also helped bolster the celebration of St. Patrick's Day which falls during the season of Lent and the only time that Christians were allowed to break their Lenten commitments was during a Saint day, or Sundays.

In the 16th century a man in Switzerland served sausages to some workers during Lent thus breaking the Lenten fast of not allowing meat during the season of Lent and since his action was backed up by Ulrich Zwingli one of the leading church reformers during the Reformation era, this caused a chain reaction regarding the season of Lent where people were no longer forced into Lenten commitments and instead it became a choice where Christians (mainly Protestant) could choose what they would like to do.

While some of the ancient practices surrounding Lent may seem extreme to those of us living today, they did have a purpose and even though Zwingli didn't think that abstaining from meat was necessary (and the eating of sausages actually lead to a violent uprising) he and others still believed that making some sort of sacrifice or commitment toward God during Lent was important because it helps ensure that the laity wouldn't become lax in their faith.

Biblical foundations and one Historical foundation for Lent:

- Moses spent 40 days and nights with God on Mt. Sinai.
- Elijah spent 40 days and nights walking to Mt. Horeb.
- God made it rain 40 days and nights in order to flood the earth.
- Jonah told the people of Ninevah that they had 40 days to repent or face God's wrath.
- Hebrew people wandered the desert for 40 years before reaching the Promised Land.
- Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the desert tempted by the devil.
- According to Matthew 9:15 Jesus asked his disciples to fast after he was gone so it is believed that the

Apostles began fasting during the 40 day period preceding Easter just after Jesus' death and resurrection.

- The time of Lent marked the time of year in the ancient world when winter food stuffs were beginning to thin out thus it became necessary for people to lessen their consumption if they were going to make food last the entire season. Lent provided a ritualistic way for people to lessen their consumption.

Since I am Lutheran and do believe in grace, our worship committee has decided that three smile like twinges per person will be tolerated during Lent. All those who exceed their quota must sit in the front row during worship.

Peace and Blessing, Pastor Robert

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Congratulations on finishing the \$5000 pledge goal for our Vernonia home project! We received a nice "thank you" from Cheri, the partner family for this home. Please find her comments transcribed below:

Dear First Lutheran congregation,

Your generosity has touched my heart and left me speechless. To know strangers and people of God have donated to help myself and family obtain our dream has me crying tears of joy and hope. I don't know if there is any way to thank each and every one of you or even how to repay this blessing.

I want you all to know that this gift will help make many good memories, family gatherings and monumental moments that we will treasure for a lifetime. I will always remember that you all have helped make this dream a reality. I don't know the proper way to say thank you but know that I feel the love, hope and faith you have all given!

*Much respect,
God bless
Cheri Storm and Family*



BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets via Zoom on Monday, March 25, at 11 a.m. The book discussion will be on *Twilight Garden* by Sara Nisha Adams. If you would like to join the group, please let Candice Becker know so she can add you to the email list. Here are the remaining books: March, *The Road from Coorain* by Jill Ker Conway; April, *The Wager* by David Grann; 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 Hall 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, Wilda Eberly, Carlene Clore, Wynn Reader, Kim Mathisen, Doreen Gordon, Marilyn Hensley, Harold Gullickson, Ashleigh Dahlgren, Scott Wright, Cheryl Perkins 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

HOLY WEEK



Holy Week Services for 2024

Sunday, March 24 10:00 a.m.	Palm-Passion Sunday <i>(palm procession, passion reading, worship with Holy Communion)</i>
Thursday, March 28, 6:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship (evening) <i>(Holy Communion, stripping of the altar)</i>
Friday, March 29, 12:00 p.m.	Good Friday Ecumenical Service at First Lutheran
Sunday, March 31, 10:00 a.m.	Festival of the Resurrection <i>(preceded by Easter breakfast; special music, Holy Communion)</i>

EASTER BREAKFAST



We are so excited once again to be able to offer Easter breakfast before service on Easter morning. Our

greatest hope is for many guests — If you are able to attend, please consider looking at the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to help provide food, as this will be primarily a potluck affair. Meat items (sausage & bacon) will be provided, as well as drinks.

Also, as you make plans for Easter Sunday, please consider inviting friends and family, maybe even a stranger. We plan to have plenty to share, so let's plan to share the joy of Easter!

The Breakfast Committee

EASTER LILIES

WELCA is getting ready to order lilies for Easter. If you would like help with the cost of these, please leave your donation in a marked envelope in the church office. Also, please note if you would like your donation to be in memory of someone. Thank you!

100th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

June is fast approaching and with that comes the 100th anniversary celebration of our church. For planning purposes, we would greatly appreciate RSVP's as soon as possible (yes, you members need to RSVP, too) and then mark your calendars. You won't want to miss this wonderful event.

RSVP
PLEASE

WELCA NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

February Recap

The speaker, Paige Diaz, from CASA FOR CHILDREN shared many interesting and informative things about her volunteer work with CASA. She has a two year commitment to help kids navigate through the maze of the court system once they enter foster care.

March Highlight

Tuesday March 5 will be our monthly gathering (first Tuesday at 1pm). We will be deciding what hands on projects we want to work on this year. Such as the Babycare Kits that were sent to LWR last year. Bring your ideas!!

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday April 6th is reserved for us at the Caples House in Columbia City. The committee is working on the many details—so stay tuned for more information about this fun time together.

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.



GUILD UPDATES



LADIES GUILD

Mary Guild meets on the 3rd Monday of every month at Avamere. This month's meeting is Monday, March 18, 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, March 19 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The bible study will be out of the Gather magazine.

Zoom Guild continues to meet on the second Monday of the month, so it falls on March 11th. The time is still 11 a.m.

BUNCO

Bunco Bunch continues to meet the third Friday of the month for fellowship and fun rolling dice together. They've had some changes to the roster of regular players and may need to add a few new names to the alternate list. If you are interested in playing as an alternate, or just want to come watch and see what Bunco is all about, contact one of the regular players. Bunco is on March 15 at 6:30 p.m., and Audrey is bringing the snack/treat. Here is a list of regular players: Candice and Cora Becker, Marilyn Hensley, Judy Ann Johnson, Missy and Cheryl Knight, Geri Logan, Teresa Sherpe and her sister Vicki, Margaret Smith, Audrey Webster, and Sandy Young. We have two alternates, Jan Burdett and Linda McCoy.



JOINT LUTHERAN/CATHOLIC SERVICE

The Lutheran-Catholic Joint Service of Music & Prayer was held on March 9th. It was very well attended - 90 souls in person and 3 on zoom. Thanks to each of you who worked together to make this day possible. We enjoyed a time of great music from all of the choirs plus the combined choir, unity candles, and a sharing of faith. Importantly, I believe all of us from both churches sensed a deep commitment to search for unity of spirit within Christ's church. Let us continue to pray that repentance and reconciliation between our two churches can grow.

Tim Meyers

The First Lutheran – St. Frederic Catholic Church joint service on Saturday March 9 represents the efforts of several committed and hard-working members of both congregations. Sincere thanks to Tim Meyers and Tom Previs as point people, who worked out details and enlisted the help of many in a wide range of service: many helped with reading, food prep, last-minute subbing and clean-up. Jerry Johnson and Kitty Heide provided technical expertise. Special appreciation also to Dr. Denise Reed of First Lutheran and Ron Nunn of St. Frederic's for the accompaniment and leadership of their respective and combined choirs. Thanks to the singers and additional instrumentalists who contributed time and talent. All who attended shared in a profound and joy worship.

(Additional members of FLCSH listed on the program: Judy Ann Johnson. Beth Hunnicutt, Enid Schantz-Hagelberg, Edee Douglas). Also, Ben Ruff, Terry Rude as ushers



WELCOME PASTOR ROBERT, PATRICE, CLARA & ELLORY!

First Lutheran Church welcomes Pastor Robert Neubert as our new pastor and also welcome his wife., Patrice and daughters, Clara and Ellory! We are so excited that you agreed to come walk with us as we begin this new journey of reconciliation and growth within our church. We couldn't be happier and look forward to a long and fruitful relationship!



IN APPRECIATION

Dear First Lutheran Church Family:

I would like to thank everyone for all their prayers, love and support throughout the last 3 months. There are no words to express my gratitude and appreciation other than to say:

I LOVE MY CHURCH FAMILY!

I am so blessed to be a part of this wonderful congregation and I thank God every day for bringing me here. I have one more surgery and then I am looking forward to living a long and happy life. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart (and thank goodness it is still pumping).

With love,

Sandy Young



First Lutheran
Church
St. Helens, OR

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship WELCOME PASTOR- ROBERT</p>	<p>4 7:00 p.m. AIAnon</p>	<p>5 1:00 p.m. WELCA 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 7:00 p.m. Properties Meeting</p>	<p>6 10:00 a.m. Quilters & Crafters 6:00 pm Supper 6:30 pm Holden Prayer 6:30 p.m. AA Meditation 7:30 pm Joint Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7 7:00 p.m. AIAnon</p>	<p>1 1:00 p.m. World Day of Prayer</p> <p>8 12:00 pm Parents Anonymous</p>	<p>2 9:30 Choir 11:00 Joint Worship with St. Frederic Catholic Church</p>
<p>10 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Church Council</p>	<p>11 11:00 a.m. Zoom Guild 7:00 p.m. AIAnon</p>	<p>12 5:30 p.m. Community Meals</p>	<p>13 10:00 a.m. Quilters & Crafters 6:00 pm Supper 6:30 pm Holden Prayer 6:30 p.m. AA Meditation 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 10:00 a.m. Contemplative Group 1:00 p.m. Piece by Peace 7:00 p.m. AIAnon</p>	<p>15 12:00 pm Parents Anonymous 6:30 p.m. Burco</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>18 10:00 a.m. Mary Guild at Avamere 7:00 p.m. AIAnon</p>	<p>19 1:00 p.m. Sarah Guild 5:30 p.m. Community Meals</p>	<p>20 10:00 a.m. Quilters & Crafters 6:00 pm Supper 6:30 pm Holden Prayer 6:30 p.m. AA Meditation 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 7:00 p.m. AIAnon</p>	<p>22 12:00 pm Parents Anonymous</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Palm Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>25 11:00 a.m. Book Club 7:00 p.m. AIAnon</p>	<p>26 5:30 p.m. Community Meals</p>	<p>27 10:00 a.m. Quilters & Crafters 6:30 p.m. AA Meditation</p>	<p>28 Mauudy Thursday 7:00 p.m. AIAnon</p>	<p>29 Good Friday 12:00 pm Joint Service 12:00 pm Parents Anonymous</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 Easter Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship</p>						

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

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The Skylight

March 2024

First Lutheran Church

The Skylight
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