



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,

On April 21st we lost one of the great Christian leaders of our time, Pope Francis. After a string of controversies had come to light in the late 20th century and early 21st century concerning terrible clergy misconduct within the Roman Catholic church as well as Protestant churches Pope Francis emerged as a beacon of light. He demonstrated that while there have been many bad apples within Christianity who had severely abused their positions of power, there were others who did try to follow the model that Christ had left for us.

Pope Francis throughout his papacy remained deeply committed to the Roman Catholic church and the principles that it was built upon. While doing this he also strove to move the church forward keeping its leaders focused on the mission that Christ set before us, to care for ALL people. This focus on caring for ALL caused many church leaders to be critical of Pope Francis as being too political and disrupting the status quo regarding traditional Roman Catholic practices. This is because he would openly criticize any leader who used violence to expand or solidify their power, openly spoke in favor of caring for immigrants and refugees and was deeply critical of countries and leaders who shut their doors or deported those seeking safety and security. Pope Francis was a strong advocate for environmental action and criticized not only businesses and governments that openly promoted or accepted environmental pollution, but also sought to reform church practices that caused environmental harm. A lot of his criticisms regarding our treatment of the environment were rooted in his love and desire to care for the poor and oppressed in our world since in his view they bore the brunt of the environmental harm caused by our global leaders and large corporations.

Pope Francis desired to return the church to a much simpler time when we were not so focused on the things that divided us, but instead were more focused on the ways we could use our calling to care for the most vulnerable in our midst. It is easy for us to get hung up on small and large points of dogma, tradition, various pieces of church piety and forget about why the church is here. Pope Francis helped remind all of us that when Jesus got down on his hands and knees and washed his disciples feet he did not do this so that we could spend our time arguing over the best way to wash feet, but instead that we were now called to serve the needs of those in our communities (not just churches) in the best way we knew how, without judgement, and without requiring them to come to us or be part of our churches. Instead we are called to meet people where they are and accept them for who they are.

Continued on Page 5

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

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Leslie Wilson (2028)

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

503-397-1838 (H) 503-703-7465 (C)
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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 April 13, 2025. The meeting was called to order by President Rodney Sherpe.

- ♦ **March 2025 Minutes:** The council reviewed the minutes from the March meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve them and the motion passed.
- ♦ **Treasurer's Report:** Jon Vingerud presented the treasurer's report. It was moved and seconded that the report be accepted. The motion was approved unanimously.
- ♦ **Pastors' Report:** Pastor Robert reported that the Lent food drive was very successful. He reported that he presided over Fred Hora's memorial service and has been providing pastoral care to other members.

- ♦ **President's Report:** Rodney Sherpe encouraged everyone to support members who are ailing or providing care for ailing family members.

Committee Reports:

- ♦ **Properties:** Written report.
- ♦ **Social Ministries & Outreach:** No report.
- ♦ **Habitat for Humanity:** No report.
- ♦ **Community Meals:** No report.
- ♦ **Social Media:** All is going well.
- ♦ **Worship & Music:** Written report. Jon Vingerud mentioned that an additional light for the organ has been obtained. Caroline DuBois had banners made for outside the church to welcome everyone to join us for worship.
- ♦ **Fellowship:** Jessie McClintock reported that a space on the Fellowship bulletin board is available to post pictures of activities at the church.
- ♦ **Christian Education:** No report

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Information as of Apr 28, 2025

	<u>Apr 28 Actuals</u>	<u>Apr 28 Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	
General Fund (GF) Income	\$ 66,005	\$ 71,567	\$ 5,562	behind budget
General Fund (GF) Expenses	\$ 70,573	\$ 72,970	\$ 2,397	under budget
Used from GF Reserves	\$ 4,568			

Thank You for your continued support.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Jon...



CHURCH COUNCIL Cont.

Old Business:

- ◆ Jessie McClintock reported that all pictures have been submitted for the new church directory and now compiling and publishing will begin.
- ◆ A discussion regarding the upcoming Council Retreat scheduled for May 3rd was held. Two council members are unable to attend on that date, so it was agreed to move it to Friday, May 9th. The May council meeting will be held then also.
- ◆ Jon Vingerud shared an update regarding the Church Mutual underwriting review, highlighting changes to the policy.

New Business:

- ◆ Habitat for Humanity has sent a pledge sheet to the church in anticipation that we would pledge \$5000 to the latest St. Helens faith build that is just getting started.
- ◆ It was moved and seconded that the floor manager for Community Meals can now be a person from outside the congregation as long as a member is present. The motion passed.

Not on Agenda:

- ◆ A discussion was held regarding the cost to separate the electrical circuits in the Community Meals storage room and put in a dedicated circuit for the CM freezers. A motion was made to have a dedicated circuit installed and it was seconded.

The motion was approved. The cost of this will be split between the church and Community Meals.

- ◆ Jon Vingerud brought up the need to modify/add to the approved signers on the church's checking account. A motion was made to add another signer and it was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

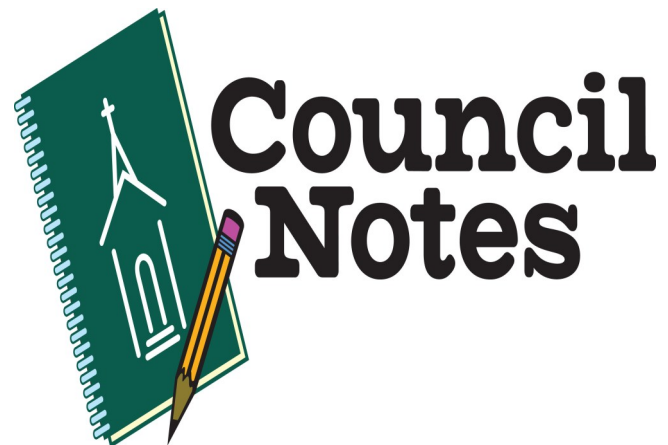
Review of the May Calendar

- ◆ The Church Council Retreat and Council Meeting were moved to May 9th from 5-8 p.m.

Good of the Order/Announcements

- ◆ None.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.



SERVING IN MAY

May 4

Ushers: Matt Freitag
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Kate Freitag
 Lay Reader: Rodney Sherpe
 Communion Server: Katie Garman
 Comm Prep. Candice Becker
 Comm. Clean-up: Geri Logan
 Tech: Teri Sherpe
 Altar Flowers: Jeran LeMont
 Coffee Fellowship: Jerry & Judy Ann Johnson

May 11 –MOTHER’S DAY

Ushers: Tim Meyers & Kathy Bauska
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: TBD
 Lay Reader: Sandy Young
 Communion Server: Katie Garman
 Comm Prep. Katie Garman
 Comm. Clean-up: Donna Meyers
 Tech: TBD
 Altar Flowers: Beth Hunnicutt in honor of John Hunnicutt
 Coffee Fellowship: Beth Hunnicutt

May 18

Ushers: Terry Rude & Rodney Sherpe
 Pianist: Enid Schantz-Hagelberg
 Cantor: TBD
 Lay Reader: Beth Hunnicutt
 Communion Server: Linda McCoy
 Comm Prep. TBD
 Comm. Clean-up: TBD
 Tech: Mike McCoy
 Altar Flowers: TBD
 Coffee Fellowship: TBD

May 25

Ushers: Mike & Linda McCoy
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: TBD
 Lay Reader: Linda McCoy
 Communion Server: Frank Kenny
 Comm Prep. TBD
 Comm. Clean-up: Geri Logan
 Tech: TBD
 Altar Flowers: Mike & Linda McCoy
 Coffee Fellowship: TBD

Special Dates

National Day of Prayer, May 1, 2025
Mother’s Day, May 11, 2025
Armed Forces Day, May 17, 2025
Victoria Day (Canada), May 19, 2025
Memorial Day, May 26, 2025
Ascension Day, May 29, 2025



CELEBRATING

1 Annette Jensen
3 Brian Morse, Edna Morse
5 Dan Dillard
12 Margaret Booth
15 Lillian Niemi
17 Andrew Niemi
23 Judy Atkinson, Brenda Grigsy
28 Linda McCoy
30 Judy Johnson



18 Craig & Susie Tolleshaug
23 Mark & Enid Schantz-Hagelberg
28 Rowan Becker & Aaron Williams

CONTEMPLATIVE GROUP

The Women's Contemplative Group will be meeting on May 8th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome! Contact Mariel McMullen 503-396-1646 or mariel.mcmullen@live.com

FROM PASTOR ROBERT—CONTINUED

While I may not have agreed with absolutely everything that Pope Francis stood for I have been deeply inspired by his wisdom and his love for all of creation and his presence will be deeply missed not only in the Roman Catholic church but in all churches.

"Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you." – Pope Francis

Peace and Blessings
Pastor Robert



FROM THE PASTOR

WELCA HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY

WELCA Meeting -

The monthly WELCA meeting for May will be on Tuesday, May 6, at 1:00 p.m. There is no program scheduled, but we will be discussing suggestions for the coming months. Please plan on attending with ideas for guest speakers or activities that we could do.

Shoes for Mexico -

Thanks to everyone that have donated SHOES for PEMZ 'put yourself in my shoes'. We have had a great response. Please continue to bring in new or gently used shoes to be sent to Mexico. They can be for kids or parents. How about surprising the kids with soccer cleats? OR black school shoes?

BABY CARE KITS for Lutheran World Relief -

Baby Care Kits Update: We have a great start collecting items for the kits. Check out the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall displaying the items needed. We really need small sleepers, gowns or top/pants sets (6,9,12 months) and large sleepers, gowns or top/pants sets (18, 24 months). Also, pick up precut cotton diapers to be hemmed. And we also need flannel to sew receiving blankets.

Questions talk to Cathy or Donna.

LOOKING AHEAD:

As a reminder, the WELCA group has decided to hold a bazaar again this year. It will be the first Saturday in November. If you would like to help out or make something for it, please watch for more news coming soon!

Women of the
ELCA

ZOOM GUILD



Zoom Guild meets online Monday, May 12, at 11 a.m. They will be covering Session 2 - "God Doesn't Waste Your Relationships" from the *Nothing*

Wasted study. Note: There is an extra copy of the study guide in the church library, if anyone wants to join Zoom Guild.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



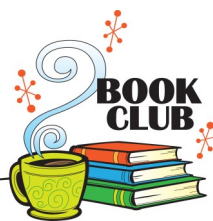
In addition to wrapping up the home in Vernonia this past month, we have also been busy building a new ramp in Rainier! When Linda first moved to the area, she was simply glad to find a decent home she could afford. Unfortunately

however, it became clear over time that she and her disabled daughter were not managing the makeshift stairs at the entry point in order to access her doorway. She wasn't able to afford to pay for a new ramp to be built in its place but altered CCHFH of her concerns. We were able to assess her current situation and work on a plan. Our wonderful volunteer builders, Dick and Mike B. then helped make this entryway easier for her to navigate, especially when carrying in groceries! Linda was so relieved to have this safer access in place for both herself and her daughter and they look forward to using this new ramp for many years!



FLC BOOK CLUB

Book club will be discussing *Band of Sisters* by Lauren Willig at this month's meeting. It is a novel set during the first world war and based on the true story of the Smith College Relief Unit in France. The group meets via Zoom on Monday, May 26 at 11 a.m. If you are interested in this book and choose to read it, you are welcome to join in the discussion. Just let Candice know so she can add you to the email list.



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 need of healing for body, mind, or soul including:
- Those affected by unemployment, lack of housing and hunger.
- Those in recovery.
- For healing and support for Scott Bauska, Margaret Booth, Tjm McAnnany, Donna Meyers, Sharyn Sundeen, Jayne Schilling, Kitty Heide, Clara Jensen, Carlene Clore, Kim Mathisen, Doreen Gordon, Marilyn Hensley, Ashleigh Dahlgren, 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

THEY'RE ENGAGED!



Bergen Anderson is engaged to Mary Kate Flugum. They met at Oregon State University. Bergen is a Process Engineer in the chip manufacturing industry and Mary Kate is a Structural Engineer and all around wonderful person.

MONTHLY SCRIPTURES

Below is a listing of the scripture lessons for May.

May 4: Acts 9:1--20, Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

May 11: Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

May 18: Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

May 25: Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22.5, John 14:23-29



CATHOLIC-LUTHERAN RELATIONS

Attention Everyone!! Something totally wonderful and unexpected is about to happen. As you remember, FLC hosted a "Celebration of Reconciliation" with St Frederic Catholic Church in March of last year, and now in response, St Frederic's has invited us to join them for another "Celebration of Faith".

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday May 17 @ 11am

Location: St Frederic Catholic Church
175 S. 13th St.
St. Helens, OR



Please reserve this time and also a place in your hearts for the repair of Protestant - Roman Catholic relations. We are invited to attend a sharing of faith in the sanctuary at St Frederic and then a potluck following, so bring a favorite dish! Let's celebrate this time of faith and fellowship with our brothers and sisters at St. Frederic.

A PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY



Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of children and families. Help us rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperdness throughout our days.

We pray that our children will love you, worship you and serve you with their God-given gifts. Grant us the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent us from provoking our children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our households with abiding love and respect. And help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

EASTER CELEBRATION



Holden looking so cute in his carrot overalls!



Patrice, Clara and Ellory looking beautiful in their Easter dresses, but where are the BONNETS????

MARY & SARAH GUILD

Mary Guild will be meeting at Avamere Monday, May 19, at 10:30 a.m. with lunch and visiting at 11:00 a.m. in the dining room. Lunch tickets for non-residents are \$5.00 Please join them for this time of reflection and fellowship.

Sarah Guild will meet on Tuesday, May 20th at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome



EASTER LILIES

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped pay for the beautiful Easter lilies that adorned our sanctuary and other areas as we celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord. Lilies are a sign of peace and may the peace of Easter remain in our hearts.



PALM SUNDAY



Gathering in the Fellowship Hall prior to processing outside and around the church with our palms. It was a beautiful day to be out waving them. Following the service, we had a wonderful brunch and great fellowship time. Thank you to everyone who helped with setting it up, bringing food, and, of course, the clean-up. Let's do it again next year.



BUNCO



Bunco Bunch gathers on Friday, May 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The group is back to evening games at 6:30 p.m. No one is signed up to bring refreshments for May. If someone would like to volunteer to do so, please let Candice know. Looking ahead to the final game night before summer break, Geri is scheduled to bring treats on Friday, June 20.

NEWSLETTER DATE

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

**NewsLetter
DEADLine**

THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone who has kept me in their prayers these past couple of months. Four hospital visits is ENOUGH! I know that the prayers helped. I love my church family.

Margaret Booth

LOVING MY "ENEMIES"

In polarized times, when people view huge concepts such as justice, government policy and care for neighbors differently, how do we follow Jesus' command to love our enemies? I prefer the word opponents, but our Lord's instructions still stand.

In the Bible, "love" doesn't mean liking someone; it means caring for them, treating them kindly. I find The Message paraphrase of Luke 6:27-36 helpful: "Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst," Jesus says about one's enemies. So, when I contact government leaders to express my opinions, I address them with respect, whether I agree with them or not. When I encounter a neighbor whose views oppose mine, I ask myself what I would want them to do for me, whether help with an errand or be friendly. Then, as The Message puts it, I "grab the initiative and do it for them."

And this, which might be the hardest: Amid tough times, Jesus says, "Respond with the supple moves of prayer." It's human nature to pray that God change our enemies' or opponents' minds. But it's more Christlike to pray for their health, their families and whatever God desires for them, not what I want. Can I do this? With God's help, yes.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

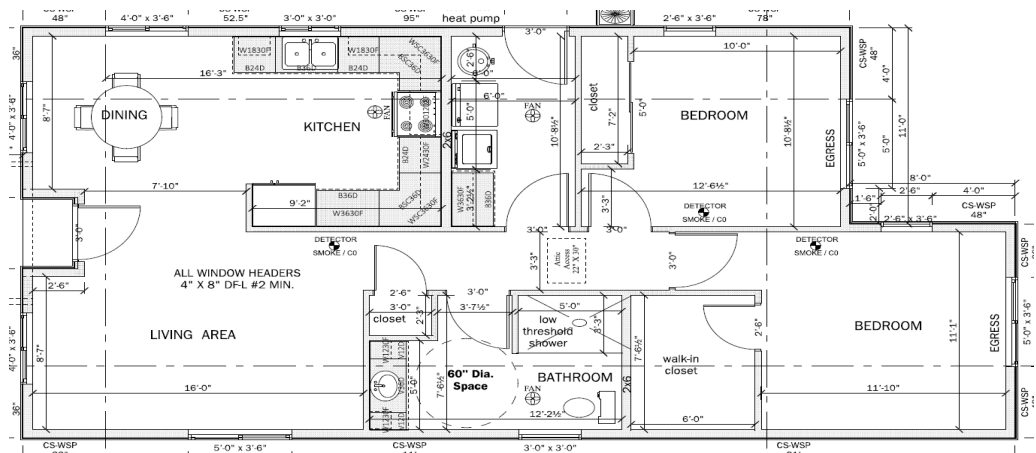
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FAITH BUILD

It is so exciting to be starting on another Faith Build in St. Helens. Thank you so much for your pledge of \$5,000 to support the project. The cost of building has gone up so much in the past few years making community partnerships even more important. I know there is interest from other St. Helens churches to join us in this effort and I look forward to the fellowship opportunities this brings.

We are waiting for approval of our building permit and actively working our way through the family selection process. The site is located at 554 South 12th Street. There are a number of easements we need to avoid so this will be a small two bedroom house. Thanks again for your generous spirit and concern for your low-income neighbors.

Sincerely,









Jennifer Anderson



First Lutheran
Church
St. Helens, OR



2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 am. Coffee/Fellowship	5 7:00 p.m. AIAnon  Cinco de Mayo	6 10:00 am Bible Study 1:00 p.m. WELCA 5:00 p.m. Executive Comm. 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Properties Meeting	7 10:00 am. Quilters & Crafters	1  May Day	2	3
11 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 am. Coffee/Fellowship  MOTHER'S DAY	12 11:00 am. Zoom Guild 7:00 p.m. AIAnon	13 10:00 am. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	14 10:00 am. Quilters & Crafters	8 10:00 am Contemplative Group 1:00 p.m. Peace by Piece	9 5:00 p.m. Church Council Retreat and Council Meeting  Council Retreat	10
18 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 am. Coffee/Fellowship <div>Pastor Gone</div>	19 10:30 am. Mary Guild at Avamere 7:00 p.m. AIAnon	20 10:00 am. Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Sarah Guild 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	21 10:00 am. Quilters & Crafters 1:00 p.m. Worship & Music	15 <div>Pastor Robert gone through May 18</div>	16 6:30 p.m. BUNCO  BUNCO	17 "Celebration of Faith" at St. Frederic Catholic Church  CELEBRATION OF FAITH
25 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 am. Coffee/Fellowship <div>Pastor Gone</div>	26 7:00 p.m. AIAnon  MEMORIAL DAY	27 10:00 am. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	28 10:00 am. Quilters & Crafters	22	23	24
31 10:00 am. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	30 10:00 am. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	29 10:00 am. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	28 10:00 am. Quilters & Crafters	29	30 2025 Oregon Synod Assembly Anam Cara: Soul Friends in the Spirit of Jesus May 30-June 1, 2025 	31

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

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The Skylight

May 2025

First Lutheran Church

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