



## 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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise." (Galatians 3:23-29)

There is an "us versus them" mentality that plagues pretty much everyone in one shape or another. Every one pretty much has a "them" or "those people". "They" could be men, women, gay, straight, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, educated, uneducated, republican, democrat, Norwegian, German, Somalian, Iranian, Seahawk fan, 49er fan, etc.... Yet how do we quit focusing on what divides us, and begin focusing more on those things that unite us. Unfortunately this is not very easy since socially we have been conditioned to focus on our differences. Whenever we walk into a room, whether it is conscious or not, we immediately begin to place people into the proper categories that we have been taught throughout our lives as we discern who would be the best person to speak to or avoid depending upon what we want addressed and what we might consider a threat. In some ways this can be a good thing. When you walk into a hospital you can pretty readily tell who the receptionist is, who the nurses are, and who the doctors are. This conditioning can also prompt us to pass judgement on people in particular situations as well when the individual has done little or nothing to deserve whatever judgement that we have made.

TV news, Reality programs, sitcoms, serial dramas, movies, etc..... each one consciously and/or unconsciously instill and reinforce stereotypes regarding the varied types of people in the world. Today it is even possible to completely surround yourself with a narrative that completely supports your particular point of view, and reinforces whatever bias you have toward those who you may disagree with. This constant reinforcing of stereotypes regarding those we disagree with, or are different than us, is so prevalent that when a television program, news story, or movie subverts an accepted stereotype then we are usually quite shocked, and it becomes its own news story. Whether we mean to or not, we then carry these stereotypes with us in the back of our mind shaping how we characterize, categorize, and utilize the different types of people we meet. All of this has another side effect, it causes us to dehumanize those around us.

## OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

**Cathy Bowcock (2027)**

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

503-407-9044 (C)  
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## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



The First Lutheran Church Council met on June 9, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Rodney Sherpe. Devotions by Pastor Robert Neubert.

- ◆ **May Minutes:** The council reviewed the minutes from the May meeting, a motion was made to accept them and the motion passed.
- ◆ **Financial Report:** Jon Vingerud gave the financial report, noting expenses were more than income. He explained the increase to the council. Jon also reported that he has paid all the bills on the kitchen restoration. Between insurance and contributions, all expenses were covered with some money left over. A motion was made to accept the report which was approved.
- ◆ **Pastors' Report:** Pastor Robert reported that there is a wedding on June 26 and another on October 14.

- ◆ **President's Report:** Rodney Sherpe thanked everyone again for helping him.

**Committee Reports:**

- ◆ **Social Ministries & Outreach:** Mike reported that there will be a Red Cross Drive here in August.
- ◆ **Worship & Music:** Written report.
- ◆ **Fellowship:** Tim gave a report on the Whispering Woods dedication at Christ Episcopal Church. He also stated that there is a conversation regarding having other churches join us at our congregational picnic in September.

**Congregational Council Priorities**

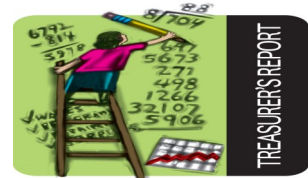
- ◆ The priorities, as discussed at the church council retreat, were reviewed with some revisions done it was decided to order a locking safe with a combination also to insure safe money handling.

## TREASURER'S UPDATE

### Information as of June 30, 2024

	June 30 <u>Actuals</u>	June 30 <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	
General Fund (GF) Income	\$ 99,539	\$ 110,250	\$ 10,711	behind budget
General Fund (GF) Expenses	\$ 95,678	\$ 110,250	\$ 14,572	under budget
Borrowed from GF Reserves	\$ 10,730			
Checking Acct Balance	\$ 15,049			

Thank you for all your support.  
Jon...



## CHURCH COUNCIL Cont.

### Old Business:

- Update regarding 100-year anniversary event planning. Sandy reported that everything seems to be coming together, pastor has a beautiful service planned, and the program has been finalized. Still looking for volunteers.
- Discussion regarding updating the church website. Pastor Rob reported that Mark Hagelberg is keeping it up to date.
- Discussion regarding technology updates for Zoom worship – Mike reminded that the Zoom techs need to stay on top of updates.
- Discussion regarding safe money handling practices, the “Accounting Policies and Procedures” document, and purchase of a safe for the church office. Discussion was held earlier during “Priorities” section of agenda.
- Update on permanent nametags. Sandy Young reminded the council on the example of new permanent nametags that she sent out. The tags would be done on a computer program and held in place by a magnet. A discussion was held and the council approved the purchase.
- Report from Ben Ruff on the Oregon Synod Assembly that was held via Zoom. He reported that the budget for the year was approved, representatives were elected for churchwide assembly in 2025 in Arizona, and he reported the Synod is conducting a fundraising campaign. A discussion was held on Synod needs.
- Jon reminded the council that any document for facilities use and weddings, etc. must use the wordage of donation or contribution as we cannot charge a “fee” and a stated amount.
- Discussion regarding updating the church directory. It was talked about and decided that an in-house directory be done with a committee consisting of Kate Freitag, Jan Burdett, Linda McCoy and Sandy Young.
- Council approval to welcome Linda Easterling back to First Lutheran. Pastor Rob explained the situation to the council. And the council approved Linda as a member.
- A suggestion was made and brought to Audrey’s attention that the wall ovens in the kitchen be removed as they are not being used. It was also suggested that the old cupboards be restrained to match the new ones. This will be referred to Properties.

### New Business:

## SERVING IN JULY

**July 7**

Ushers: The Sundeen's  
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed  
 Cantor: Frank Kenny  
 Lay Reader: Beth Hunnicutt  
 Communion Server: Katie Garman  
 Comm Prep. Katie Garman  
 Comm. Clean-up: TBD  
 Tech: Kitty Heide  
 Altar Flowers: Margaret Booth  
 Coffee Fellowship: The DuBois'

**July 14—Regular Service**

Ushers: Tim Meyers & Kathy Bauska  
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed  
 Cantor: Kate Freitag  
 Lay Reader: Sandy Young  
 Communion Server: TBD  
 Comm Prep. Candice Becker  
 Comm. Clean-up: Donna Meyers  
 Tech: TBD  
 Altar Flowers: Jackie & Jon Vingerud  
 Coffee Fellowship: TBD

**July 14—Pastor Robert's Installation—2:00 p.m.**

Ushers: TBD  
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed  
 Cantor: Kate Freitag  
 Lay Reader: Sandy Young  
 Communion Server: TBD  
 Comm Prep. TBD  
 Comm. Clean-up: Geri Logan  
 Tech: TBD  
 Altar Flowers: Jon & Jackie Vingerud

**July 21**

Ushers: Terry Rude & Ben Ruff  
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed  
 Cantor: Kate Freitag  
 Lay Reader: TBD  
 Communion Server:  
 Comm Prep. TBD  
 Comm. Clean-up:  
 Tech: TBD  
 Altar Flowers: The Burdett's  
 Coffee Fellowship: TBD

**July 28**

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



*Thank you to everyone who has signed up as lay helpers. We are always looking for more volunteers.*

*Look for the July sign-up sheets in addition to the flower chart and coffee hour sign-up sheet.*

## CELEBRATING



- 1 Don Jensen, Scott Bauska, Tom Vingerud
- 5 Ellen Bailey
- 6 Jake Boyle
- 8 Candice Becker, Judy Ann Johnson
- 17 Max Ragner
- 19 Wendy Rude
- 20 Geri Logan
- 21 Jeanette Crandall
- 23 Madison Sundeen
- 24 Hunter Uselton
- 25 Marilyn Hensley, Todd Sundeen
- 26 Ken Anderson
- 29 Kim Mathisen



No Anniversaries in July

**CONTEMPLATIVE GROUP**

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



## PASTOR ROBERT—CONTINUED

Here in our own communities we gravitate toward those people and groups that we have determined are most like us and that is good. Unfortunately what also seems to happen is that we use labels that we have learned to push away and dehumanize those we do not like. We then use these labels to reinforce why we dislike someone, or as a reason why we should avoid them. Yet what if I was to tell you that the person you dislike, the one that annoys and infuriates you is your brother or your sister, that each of us has a calling not to push them away but instead to embrace and move forward together. Of course there are times when this is impossible, when damage has been done between two people that is nearly insurmountable but for the vast majority of the things that separate us are relatively small and petty. Sure each of us make mistakes and act in ways that cause pain to others but each of us must also learn to forgive and move forward with the understanding that the person you have wronged or has wronged or annoyed you is a fellow child of God, (or if you prefer cohabitant on this great planet) and therefore you are both part of one body.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Robert



## PASTOR ROBERT'S INSTALLATION

A decorative border made of pink and red swirling lines with various sizes of white and gold stars, framing the central text.

***IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!!***

***YOU ARE INVITED TO THE INSTALLATION OF  
PASTOR ROBERT NEUBERT AS FULL-TIME PASTOR OF  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ST. HELENS, OREGON***

***JULY 14, 2024  
2:00 P.M.***

***THERE WILL BE A POTLUCK IN THE FELLOWSHIP  
HALL FOLLOWING THE INSTALLATION SERVICE.  
PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING AND WELCOME PASTOR  
ROBERT AND FAMILY TO FIRST LUTHERAN.***

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The Vernonia house is taking shape! Please contact Alex for information on volunteering:

971-374-7787 or

[volunteer@habitatcolumbiacounty.org](mailto:volunteer@habitatcolumbiacounty.org)

We have a new online signup available as well. Thank you for your support.



## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have any submissions for the August newsletter into the office by Wednesday **July 24th**. Thank you!

*Newsletter*  
**DEADLINE**

## RED CROSS DRIVE

The Outreach/Social Ministry Committee at First Evangelical Lutheran Church is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive. Our Fellowship Hall is a perfect facility for a Summer drive, with an air conditioned environment. We need blood donors. If you are not eligible to donate you can help by encouraging friends and family members to donate. Please help.

Date: Saturday August 3rd

Place: Fellowship Hall

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:45 PM



For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-733-2767

## DEVOTIONALS



The "Christ in Our Home" publication for July through September is 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, Carlene Clore, Joan Heide, 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

## SUMMER BREAK

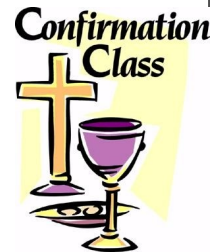


As usual, the Guilds are taking the months of July and August off. They will resume meetings in September. Bunco is also not having gatherings in July and August.

However, Zoom Book Club will meet as usual on the last Monday of the month. And Contemplative Group will continue to meet, also. Everyone enjoy their summer, stay cool and we will see you all back in action in September.

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

Starting October 6th at 11:30 a.m., we will be having confirmation classes on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. If you know anyone (kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, neighbors, random kids you found on the streets) between the ages of 10-14, they are welcome to join us as we explore what it means to be part of the church. For more information, contact Pastor Robert.



## WELCA NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

### JULY

**NOTE PICNIC DATE CHANGE — SEE AUGUST**



### AUGUST

**WHO:** WELCA gals (bring family & friends)

**WHAT:** Summer Potluck Picnic (bring your favorite picnic item to share)

**WHERE:** Meyers's home - 18145 NW St Helens Rd, Portland

**WHEN:** Saturday August 10th @ 1pm

**WHY:** Fun Food & Fellowship (why not?)

What to bring: picnic food to share, a comfy camping chair if you want one. Call Donna 503-396-2365 with questions or suggestions. The plates etc, drinks, tables and chairs will be provided.

There will be some outdoor games to try! Watching you play will be the main entertainment! Or some of you could wander in the 'park' & woods.

### COLLECTION FOCUS

**BABYCARE KITS:** t-shirts 12-24 months, sleepers ( 1 or 2 piece) or gowns 12-24 months, and jackets, sweaters or sweatshirts 9-24 months. All of the clothing items can be gently used. So check out the local garage sales or thrift stores. If any of the items you turn in aren't exactly what LWR has requested we will adapt them or pass on to another cause.

### SEPTEMBER

We will resume our general meeting in September, the first Tuesday at 1pm with a local guest speaker. So mark your calendars and watch for more details.

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

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# The Skylight

July 2024

First Lutheran Church

**The Skylight**  
is the monthly newsletter of  
**First Lutheran Church**

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