



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,

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?"

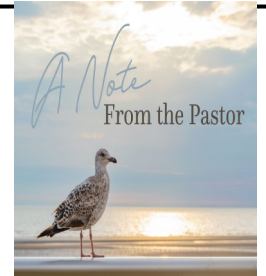
The question is derived from passages such as this:

"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 grow and gain some measure of success in spreading the Gospel.

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 the 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 the 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. 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, and small churches that constantly. I have been to churches in wealthy communities where they brought in more money than what 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.



OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Cathy Bowcock (2027)

503-397-0599 (H) 503-369-9985 (C)
cbowcock7@gmail.com

Kate Freitag, Secretary (2026)

503-704-5624
kate_freitag@hotmail.com

Geri Logan (2025)

503-397-4666 (H)
 503-936-8254 (C)
gerilogan2@gmail.com

Mike McCoy (2027)

503-438-0356
golfliion49@gmail.com

Tim Meyers (2025)

503-621-3891
meydontim@yahoo.com

Wendy Rude (2025)

503-397-5683 (C)
wendyter3@msn.com

Ben Ruff (2026)

971-203-1675
benjaminruff@protonmail.com

Rodney Sherpe, President (2025)

503-543-2251
stjohnsladyhawks@yahoo.com

Audrey Webster, Vice President (2025)

503-397-5866
abw1@comcast.net

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 13, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Rodney Sherpe. Devotions by Tim Meyers.

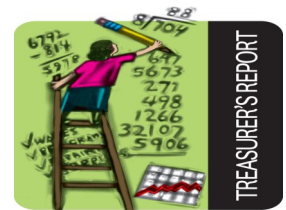
- ◆ **September Minutes:** The council reviewed the minutes from the September meeting, a motion was made to accept them and the motion passed.
- ◆ **Financial Report:** Jon Vingerud gave the financial report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report. The motion was approved unanimously.
- ◆ **Pastors' Report:** Pastor Robert reported was preparing for a wedding and that there were two funerals two weeks ago. He had his first confirmation class with 3 kids, but he expects a couple more.
- ◆ **President's Report:** Rodney Sherpe thanked everyone for all the good work that has been done.
- Committee Reports:**
 - ◆ **Finance & Stewardship:** Pastor Robert asked for feedback on the proposed stewardship letter .
 - ◆ **Properties:** Mike McCoy has assembled the new bench and it will be installed soon.
 - ◆ **Social Ministries:** Mike McCoy reported on the new sandwich board sign that is being put out on Sunday mornings to invite people to church. He also presented a draft logo for FLC and the council approved that logo as presented.
 - ◆ **Community Meals:** Cathy Bowcock provided an update regarding staffing, particularly the need for cooks.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Information as of October 31, 2024

	October 31 <u>Actuals</u>	October 31 <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	
General Fund (GF) Income	\$ 162,930	\$ 182,337	\$ 19,407	behind budget
General Fund (GF) Expenses	\$ 163,564	\$ 183,750	\$ 20,096	under budget
Borrowed from GF Reserves	\$ 10,730			
Checking Acct Balance	\$ 8,534			

Through the month of October our expenses exceeded our income by \$634. Your continued financial support for the last two months of the year is greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you do.
Jon...



CHURCH COUNCIL Cont.

- ◆ **Worship & Music:** Written report.
 - ◆ **Fellowship:** Tim Meyers shared that St. Frederic Catholic Church would like to repeat the shared service as an annual tradition. Pastor Robert advised that there will be an ecumenical Thanksgiving service at Plymouth Presbyterian Church on November 24th at 4:00 p.m. He is also working on panning a “Blue Christmas” service.
 - ◆ **Old Business:**
 - Update regarding stair railings to altar. Tim provided an estimate of two options to the council—one being an all-metal railing or a wooden top railing. There will be another bid coming.
 - Pastor Robert asked if there were any additional comments to the Personnel Handbook draft. It was moved and seconded that the Personnel Handbook policy be approved. Motion was approved unanimously.
 - Mike McCoy stated that we have two bids to update the church’s telephone system. The committee will continue working on this.
 - Update on permanent nametags. Now that we have a new church logo, Sandy can move forward on creating the name tags.
 - The church directory work group will set dates for photographers to begin taking pictures of families to be included in the directory.
 - Ben Ruff agreed to fill the current Council vacancy and was appointed by President Sherpe to serve on the Council.
- New Business:**
- There will be 3 Sundays in November where a member will give a “temple talk” regarding stewardship.
- Good of the Order/Announcements:**
- Wendy Rude highlighted that Pastor Allison Bengfort’s installation would be occurring on October 19th.



SERVING IN NOVEMBER

November 3

Ushers: The Sundeen's
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Frank Kenny
 Lay Reader: Vincent Yellot
 Communion Server: Katie Garman
 Comm Prep. Rowan Becker
 Comm. Clean-up: Teri Sherpe
 Tech: Kitty Heide
 Altar Flowers: Rowan Becker
 Coffee Fellowship: Terry & Wendy Rude

November 10

Ushers: Tim Meyers & Kathy Bauska
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Kate Freitag
 Lay Reader: Sandy Young
 Communion Server: Caroline DuBois
 Comm Prep. Katie Garman
 Comm. Clean-up: Donna Meyers
 Tech: Mike McCoy
 Altar Flowers: John & Jan Burdett
 Coffee Fellowship: Tim & Donna Meyers

November 17

Ushers: Terry Rude & Ben Ruff
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Frank Kenny
 Lay Reader: Katie Garman
 Communion Server: Katie Garman
 Comm Prep. Frank Kenny
 Comm. Clean-up: TBD
 Tech: TBD
 Altar Flowers: Shauna Stroup Harrison
 Coffee Fellowship: Mike & Linda McCoy

November 24

Ushers: Mike & Linda McCoy
 Pianist: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Kate Freitag
 Lay Reader: Henrik & Ally Vingerud
 Communion Server: Frank Kenny
 Comm Prep. Katie Garman
 Comm. Clean-up: Geri Logan
 Tech: TBD
 Altar Flowers: Tom & Christina Vingerud
 Coffee Fellowship: TBD

WEEKNIGHT ADVENT SERVICE

We will be having Tuesday night Advent services beginning on December 3rd and continuing on December 10th and 17th. We will worship with the Holden Evening Prayer beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by bible study on the book of Ruth at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join in both the service and the bible study as we prepare to welcome Jesus.



CELEBRATING



- 1 Doug Wilson
- 2 Agnes Clark
- 4 Enid Schantz-Hagelberg
- 5 Chuck Garman
- 7 Sue Christophersen, Katie Garman
- 11 Steve Monteleone, Jayne Schilling
Leslie Wilson
- 20 Kassandra Cohn
- 22 Terry Rude
- 25 Tanner Boyle
- 26 Linda Easterling
- 30 Lynn Boyle



- 16 Rich & Jeanette Crandall
- 25 Don & Linda Bolieu
- 27 Steve & Caroline DuBois

CONTEMPLATIVE GROUP

The Women's Contemplative Group will be meeting on November 14th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome! Contact Mariel McMullen 503-396-1646 or mariel.mcmullen@live.com

FROM PASTOR ROBERT—CONTINUED

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 the loving care that only a Christ centered community can provide.

Despite having gone through a prolonged period of transition, First Lutheran has remained as 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 through the calling 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

from the
PASTOR



“FLYING HOME”

This year's Drawing Quilt is outstanding! "Flying Home" 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).

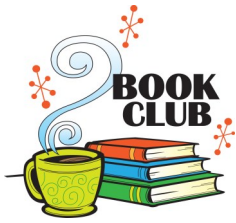
Tickets are only \$1 each or \$5 for six tickets.

Tickets can be purchased at our Harvest Bazaar on November 2nd, and any Sunday up to December 8th when we will have the drawing. Also, we are going to have at least one other quilt, or even possibly two, that will be drawn for. Thank you Cathy Bowcock for creating these quilts.

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



FLC BOOK CLUB



In November, the FLC Book Club will be discussing *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brenda Slocum. They meet via Zoom on Monday, November 25, at 11 a.m. If you would like to join,

but don't want to mess with Zoom, you are welcome to come to Candice Becker's house to participate on her computer with her. The Book Club welcomes people who want to just read the book on a particular month; there is not a 12-month commitment or anything formal like that. Just let Candice know so she can add you to the email list. There is a list of chosen monthly books, including descriptions, in the church office. If you want to read ahead for December, that book is *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope* by Anne Lamott. .

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, I ask that you remember others who could use it now. This is a great way to help support the Columbia Pacific Food Bank in St. Helens.

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



Food
Collection



DEVOTIONALS

Daily
DEVOTIONALS
Available

The "Christ in Our Home" publication for October through December 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 including:
- Those affected by unemployment, lack of housing and hunger.
- Those in recovery.
- For healing and support for Wendy Rude, Jayne Schilling, Charlie Boelk, Clara Jensen, Carlene Clore, Kim Mathisen, Doreen Gordon, Marilyn Hensley, Harold Gullickson, 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

THANK YOU!!!

Thank You!

Thank you! I was genuinely surprised on Pastor Appreciation Sunday (10/13) Thank you so much for making me feel special, the wonderful cake and the gift cards. I have already used the REI gift card to help in buying a new tent, and we took Clara out for ice cream while visiting her at college with the Salt and straw gift card.

Thank you so much, you are all truly a blessing to my family and I!

Peace
Pastor Robert

CONFIRMATION CLASS

REMINDER!! Confirmation classes have started. They are at 11:30 a.m., on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Children between the ages of 10-14 are welcome to join us as we explore what it means to be part of the church. For more information, contact Pastor Robert.

Confirmation Class



WELCA NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER

General Meeting - Tuesday 11/5

Please join us to discuss the recent Harvest Bazaar! We will be able to share our thoughts about how everything went after our long break from holding our bazaar for the public. How this fun event went will be fresh in our minds. NOT THE TIME CHANGE -- SEE YOU at 11 a.m.

Save the date:

WELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY — SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH.

Details of time and what to bring will be in the December newsletter.



GROTTO SING-ALONG



The Christmas Carol Sing-along event will be occurring again this year at the Grotto. As a group of regular volunteers and staff at the Grotto lead the audience in a traditional Christmas carol sing-along, they will be accompanied by Denise Reed. Denise will play on November 30th at 5:15 p.m. and December 29th at 9:00 p.m. This is just one type of event that is available at the Grotto. There are some fabulous musical groups scheduled to perform everyday during the holiday season as visitors review the awe-inspiring light exhibit there.

THANKOFFERING SERVICE



A Thankoffering service sponsored by WELCA will be held during worship on Sunday, November 10. Everyone is invited to participate, not just women.

The tradition of giving these offerings began in the early 1800's, when women formed 'cent' or 'mite' societies to raise money which was used to support female missionaries. The earliest Lutheran society was founded in New York in 1837. By 1879, a national society was formed. Soon after that, the organization began providing women with small boxes to place in a special place in their homes as a visible reminder of blessings received. Women would add coins as a response to these blessings. And we are not alone. Episcopal Church women held their first service in 1889, and United Methodist women have had this tradition for over 100 years as well.

Today, those who participate provide their own container, but continue the tradition of this acknowledgement of God's blessings. Funds raised are used to further the mission and ministries of Women of the ELCA at home and through-out the world.

Here at First Lutheran, we will join with congregations around the country to gather our offerings, and at least part of the service that day will be an acknowledgement of this long-standing tradition among Christian women.

So find yourself a small container, box, can, jar, basket, whatever works for you, and join with many others in this long standing tradition. My small box sits on my kitchen window sill, where it reminds me daily of God's many blessings.

Judy Ann Johnson



THANKSGIVING MEAL

Community Meals will be serving a traditional Thanksgiving dinner on Tuesday, November 26th with turkey, dressing, gravy, etc. You are invited to join them for this celebration.

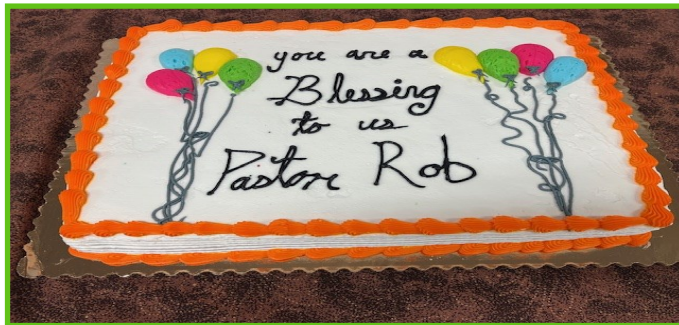
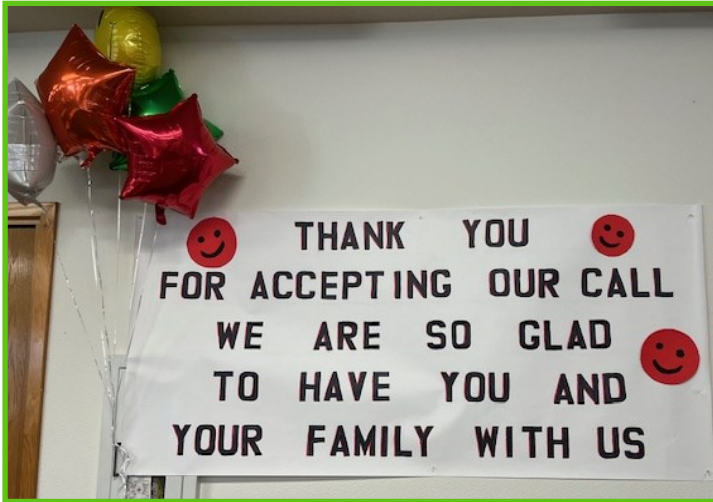


MARY GUILD

Mary Guild is now meeting again at Avamere on the third Monday of each month 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



PASTOR ROB APPRECIATION SUNDAY



ZOOM GUILD

BUNCO



Online Bible Study Zoom Guild meets on Monday, November 11, at 11 a.m. on Zoom. They will be going through Session 11 of *Twelve More Women of the Bible*. This session is titled, *Elizabeth-How*

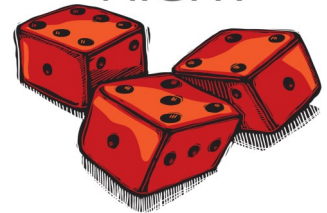
to Win the Waiting Game. At this meeting the group will also begin reviewing other potential studies for the future, as there is only one remaining session after November. If you are interested in joining for the next study, let a member know. Zoom Guild is made up of Candice Becker, Beth Hunnicutt, Judy Ann Johnson, Geri Logan, and Audrey Webster.

Bunco Bunch will roll the dice on Friday, November 15, at 6:30

p.m. We meet in the Fellowship Hall and welcome anyone who may be interested to sign up as an

alternate player. You are always welcome to come watch to see what it is about. It's very easy and fun. The Bunco players from 1st Lutheran are Candice and Peach Becker, Judy Ann Johnson, Geri Logan, Teri Sherpe, Audrey Webster, and Sandy Young. You can talk with one of them if you are interested. (The other five players are made up of friends and family.)

BUNCO NIGHT



NEWSLETTER DATE

Please have any submissions for the December newsletter into the office by Monday, **November 18th.**

Thank you!

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

ADVENT COLLECTION

Beginning the first Sunday in Advent, December 1st, 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 22. 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 24, at 4:00 p.m. at Plymouth Presbyterian Church. The address is 2615 Sykes Road, St. Helens. The service is being presented by the St. Helens Ministerial Association with Pastor Robert preaching the sermon.



The busy holiday season is nearly upon us. During this service, God, help me focus on your goodness, peace and love, the heart of all the upcoming celebration.

LWR MATCHING GIFT

Lutheran World Relief is offering a wonderful way to deliver Christmas love and comfort to suffering families worldwide. Your gift will **DOUBLE** to make 2x the lifesaving impact this Christmas. If you would like to help with this project, please make your check out to First Lutheran Church and the money will be totaled at the end of the collection time and one check written to Lutheran World Relief which will then be matched and doubled. What a wonderful way to help others!

Your gift will **DOUBLE** to make **2X** the lifesaving impact this Christmas


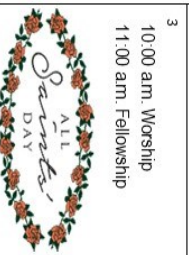





 YOUR DONATION IS SECURE



First Lutheran Church St. Helens, OR



2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12:00 pm Parents Anonymous Bazaar Set-up continues	2 9:00 A.M. Harvest Bazaar 
3 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 am. Fellowship 	4 7:00 p.m. Alanon	5 10:00 am. Bible Study 11:00 am. WELCA meeting 5:00 pm. Executive Comm. 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Properties Meeting	6 10:00 am. Quilters & Crafters 6:30 p.m. AA Meditation	7 10:00 am Contemplative Group 1:00 p.m. Piece by Peace	8 12:00 pm Parents Anonymous 	9
10 10:00 am. Worship with Thankoffering 11:00 am. Fellowship 11:30 am. Church Council 	11 11:00 am. Zoom Guild 7:00 p.m. Alanon 	12 10:00 am. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	13 10:00 am. Quilters & Crafters 6:30 p.m. AA Meditation	14 10:00 am Contemplative Group 1:00 p.m. Piece by Peace	15 12:00 pm Parents Anonymous 6:30 p.m. Bumco	16
17 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 am. Fellowship	18 10:30 am. Mary Guild at Avamere 7:00 p.m. Alanon	19 10:00 am. Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Sarah Guild 5:30 p.m. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	20 10:00 am. Quilters & Crafters 1:00 p.m. Worship & Music 6:30 p.m. AA Meditation	21	22 12:00 pm Parents Anonymous	23
24 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 am. Fellowship 4:00 pm. Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 	25 7:00 p.m. Alanon	26 10:00 am. Bible Study 5:30 pm. Community Meals 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	27 10:00 am. Quilters & Crafters 6:30 p.m. AA Meditation	28 	29 12:00 pm Parents Anonymous	30

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

Non-profit Organization
BULK RATE
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 11
St. Helens, OR 97051

Return Service Requested



The Skylight

November 2024

First Lutheran Church

The Skylight
is the monthly newsletter of
First Lutheran Church

Phone: 503-397-0090
E-mail: 1stlutheransh@comcast.net
Website: www.firstlutheransh.org