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APRIL 2024

THE ENLIGHTENER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Feeding our Soul

Grace and peace to you from Christ our Lord,

33 Broadway Street
Shelby, Ohio 44875
Ph 419-347-7675
Email:
firstlutheranshelby@gmail.com

Every year I encourage folks to not just focus on Easter, but all of Holy Week...Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, AND Easter Sunday...Why?

While Christmas is clearly the more festive holiday, make no mistake, Easter and Holy Week have always been the pinnacle of the Christian calendar. Of course, we can't have the events of Holy Week without the virgin birth in Bethlehem, but the birth was only a means to get to the cross.

In many ways one could point to nearly any event or individual in the Old Testament and say much the same. Moses? An important man who ushered in a new era of the Mosaic Covenant between God and Israel. He set the course for the establishment of the nation of Israel and led his people to freedom. But the argument can be made that all this happened in order that there might BE an Israel for Jesus to be born into...so that he might go to the cross there. And once again, we're back to Holy Week.

Every event that happened before Holy Week pointed forward to the cross. Everything that happens from that point forward points back toward the cross, either highlighting how faith in the crucified and resurrected Christ has led to new life, or by simply providing evidence that this perpetually broken world needs the cross. The cross finds its way to the center of any and every human story. It is both the beginning and the end...the beginning of God's new covenant and the end of all of creation's purpose.

So, I invite you to more than Easter Sunday, more than Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. I invite you to the most important event in history: Holy Week...the events that serve as the fulcrum to all of human existence. Come stand in the center of the world.

God bless,

Pastor Rus"

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Russel Yoak
Senior Pastor
(419) 989-1575

<http://www.facebook.com/revrusselyoak>



MUSIC NOTES – Paul Martin, Ministry of Worship & Music

Mark your calendars now for these exciting upcoming events...

Sunday, June 16, 2024 (at 10:00am) Timothy and Hosanna Noble

Sunday, July 2024 (at 6:00pm) GloryWay in Concert



DOUBLE YOUR GIFT!

An anonymous donor will match dollar per dollar up to \$15,000 to go toward the Organ Repair Fund. NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL! Please use the envelopes in the pews, adding your name or envelope number and indicate "Match Gift". Let's see how quickly we can complete the match and reach the goal of \$30,000.00!

**CURRENT DONATION TOWARD MATCH GIVING
\$9,832.13
WE ARE NOW OVER \$58,000!!**



FOOD PANTRY – Louise Hunter, Food Pantry Director

Food Pantry donation request for April – TOILET PAPER



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY – Al and Sue Vogel

The Mobile Food Pantry will begin in April running through September, every 3rd Tuesday of each month.

**Beginning Tuesday, April 19th.
10:00am ... Bring bags
Volunteers needed. Contact Al or Sue.**



FINANCE – Brian Crum, Treasurer

The financial situation over the first couple months of 2024 has been similar to the last few years. Our giving is only down about \$500 from last year at this time. The expenses have outpaced offering by a little over \$6,000 through the end of February. This puts us on trend as with previous years to lose about \$30,000 for the year. We do have \$60,000 in the contingency fund and another \$32,000 of undesignated memorials that we can pull from. I am hopeful to see a deposit sometime in the near future for our amended payroll tax returns to claim the Employee Retention Credit. If that comes in, it will result in a significant cash in flow. Most of our other funds have held steady, aside from the property fund which took a major hit in the beginning of the year due

to necessities, roof, elevator, HVAC, and hot water tank repairs to the tune of about \$15,000. Hopefully nothing breaks so that fund will regain some strength over the next few months.

The ABC Center is moving along with their transition well. While they still had losses in January and February, they were much less than some of the months we have seen in the last year. I am hopeful that they will be in the black by mid-year.



YOUTH GROUP – Brian Crum

Youth group has had a great turnaround in the last few weeks. We were in a bit of a funk, but we had a very productive discussion with the kids and parents, and we have seen quite a resurgence. In the last few weeks, we have made candles and taken a trip to an indoor mini golf for social activities, had a discussion with Pastor at a coffee shop, and made Easter gift bags for our shut ins. Next week Pastor is coming back to discuss with us Holy Week and the Last Supper. We have some big outings coming up including a retreat at Kalahari Waterpark and hopefully a trip to Kings Island for their Christian Concert in June. We are having a fabulous time, and I look forward to finishing up the school year.



BUS STOP KIDS – Brian Crum

I have also made some great headway with our bus stop kids. We now have a bike rack for them courtesy of Pioneer. I will be working with Sarah in the near future to put together some programs to hopefully get the kids involved in the church a little more as well. Thank you all for your support with all of our programs!



ABC LEARNING CENTER – Heather Murry, ABC Director

Hello! My name is Heather Murray, and I am the new director of ABC Learning Center. I'm excited to be in this position. I grew up in Galion and graduated from Pioneer many years ago. I also have a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a master's degree in early childhood education. I have been working in this industry for over 25 years. My home church is the Ark Church in Galion where I am the children's leader. I grew up in the church of Mansfield First Assembly of God. ABC Learning Center is a great ministry of the church. Every day we teach and love on the children that attend our center. The staff is amazing! They have really stepped up to keep this ministry going. We want to grow the center but to do that we need more qualified staff so that we can have more children attending. I'm always looking for staff and children. The biggest need we have right now is a cook. If you know someone that has their serve sav training send them our way. We have many ideas for the future. Thank you for your prayers and support.



RUBY'S PRAYER OF THE MONTH

O God, how great Thou art: Dear Lord, help us to see our Heavenly Father as the Source and Giver of all good things, that we have nothing which is not God's gift to us. Graft into our hearts a love for Him. Let that love come first, before the love of self and the world. Increase in us a true and sincere religion, that our hearts and homes, may be always open to Christ. Renew our faith daily, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

LET US PRAY...Prayer request for the month of April

Sally Barley	Carole Jess	August Schreiber
Greg Beeching	Cohen Lewis	Joe Sparks
Annalisha Corwin	Becky Loveless	Myrna Spath
Barb Davies	Earl Lynch, Sr.	Bill Spoljarick
Jackie Davies	Emanuel Martin	Carl Spoljarick
Sandy Ensman	Joanne Martin	Chip Stephens
Dorothy Foreman	Ben Medley	Diane Stiefel
Lew Friend	Luke Medley	Bob Stover
Rose Furr	Tommy Morton, Jr.	John Yetzer
John Hancock	Carol Nelson	
Phil Jennings	Judy Ream	

PRAYER REQUEST - If you or someone you know would like to be put on the prayer list, please contact the church office. (419-347-7675)

VISITATION LIST - March 2024

Mildred House - CRYSTAL CARE OF ASHLAND-1251 E Main St Ashland 44805

Candy Potts - DAYSPRING ASSISTED LIVING-3220 Olivesburg Rd, Mansfield 44903

Veronica O'Keefe - GOOD SHEPHERD OF FOSTORIA-725 Columbus Ave, Fostoria 44830

Dorothy Foreman - LEXINGTON COURT CARE CENTER-250 Delaware Ave, Lexington 44904

Almeida McKown - LUTHERAN VILLAGE OF ASHLAND-330 Davis Rd Ashland 44805

Joe Sparks - MANSFIELD PLACE-1841 Middle Bellville Rd Mansfield 44904

Miriam Lambert - O'NEILL HEALTHCARE-4800 Clague Rd, Apt 116 North Olmstead 44070

Patricia Baird- ONTARIO ESTATES-2010 Walker Lake Rd, Ontario 44906

Joann Rigg - ONTARIO ESTATES-2010 Walker Lake Rd, Ontario 44906

Mary Jane Burrer - THE WILLOWS-1050 Neal Zick Rd, Willard 44890

Jane Beeching, 47 Marvin Ave, Shelby.....419-347-5255

Carolyn Bricker, 1887 St Rt 96E, Shelby..... 419-347-5415

Ruth Greter, 2877 Stiving Rd, Mansfield 44903..... 419-347-1435

John Hancock, 31 Sherwood, Shelby.....419-543-0392
Bob & Carol Jess, 84 Shelby Ave, Shelby.....567-844-0253
Patricia Knapp, 25 Riverview, Shelby.....419-564-5227
Pat Rank, 4 Park Village, Shelby.....419-347-4211
August Schreiber, 3391 St Rt 96E, Shelby.....419-989-1322
Renee' Simpson, 5690 Racoon Valley Rd, Alexandria 43001.....740-924-2061
Jeannie Sisinger, 634 McBride Rd, Mansfield 44905 WILLOWS (Gerals daughter)
Jim & Shirley Stine, 18 W Maxwell, Shelby.....419-631-9761

GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRY – We are looking for people to be part of the Good Shepherd Ministry. “Shepherds” send out cards to church members. Please contact the church office if you are willing to be part of this meaningful group.

A big thank you to those who are currently good shepherds!!

OUR SYMPATHY...

To the family of James Schaub

To the family of Susan Spangler

To the family of Marie Metcalfe, sister-in-law to Doug and Shirley Huskey

To the family of Penny Sheely

ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

EASTER EGG HUNT: EASTER SUNDAY

Following our worship service there will be an easter egg hunt for kids and teens. Please let Sarah Martin know if your children plan to participate so there are enough supplies.



CHURCH BREAKFAST ... April 15, 8:00-10:00am

MEET ME ON MONDAY ... April 20, Noon...LaCampesina



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1st - Kurt Synder
April 2nd - Sandra Cornett
April 4th - Kristian McLaughlin
April 5th - Xander Wilkins
April 6th - Carol Linn, Mary Naumann
April 7th - Carolyn Bricker
April 8th - Jeanne Sisinger
April 9th - Blaise Caudill, Jeffrey Green
April 10th - Brad Berberick, Harold Gibson, Colton Reed, Alfred Vogel
April 11th - Jeanine Gates, Rebecca Hamman, Geraldine Lynch
April 12th - Nancy Crum, Nancy Medley
April 13th - Garrett Caudill, Joshua Yoak
April 14th - Gail Claytor, Douglas Love
April 16th - Douglas Huskey, Jessica Long, Arthur Seaman
April 19th - James Hunter
April 21st - Gregory Geer, Carrie Sifferlin, Christine Wood
April 24th - Suellyn Lynch
April 25th - Cole White
April 26th - Jeremiah Roth
April 28th - Wendy Gunder



April 4th - Steven and Jody Yockey
April 6th - Roger and Teresa Baird
April 27th - Kenneth and Rebecca Papay



CONGRATULATIONS....

***To Cassie Lynch and Aaron Gates on their marriage
Saturday, March 23rd.***

THANK YOU....

Dear First Lutheran,

Thank you for hosting a beautiful luncheon for Penny Sheely's funeral. As a lifelong member, I know that my mom, Linda Bloomfield and grandma, Mary Shafer, were very proud to share their church.

Penny would have loved the old-fashioned feel of the real plates and napkins!
With love, The Sheely Family

Dear First Lutheran,

Thank you to everyone for the support, prayers, and cards in the time of Jacque's passing. Your thoughtfulness during this difficult time was very much appreciated.

Sincerely, The Hoover Family

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS, ALTAR FLOWERS, AND ALTAR GUILD

LECTORS

April 7th – Shirley Huskey
April 14th – Nancy Crum
April 21st – Renee Nastasi
April 28th – Sue Vogel

RECEIPTS

April 7th – Carol McLaughlin
April 14th – Kelly Crum
April 21st – Cassie Lynch
April 28th – Cece VonStein

GREETERS

April 7th – Sue Schiffer
April 14th – Carol McLaughlin
April 21st – Bobbie Clevenger
April 28th – Cathy Dodge

ALTAR FLOWERS

April 7th - OPEN
April 14th - OPEN
April 21st - Fred Lee and Brad Berberick
April 28th -OPEN

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

April 7th – Pam Copper, Sue Vogel, Ethan Beck
April 14th – Kristie Yoak and Family
April 21st – Shirley Huskey, Renee Nastasi, Lillian Beck
April 28th – Nancy Crum, Pam Blankenhorn, Nary Lee Barr

ASSISTING MINISTERS

April 7th – Pam Coper
April 14th – Kristie Yoak
April 21st – Shirley Huskey
April 28th – Nancy Crum

ACOLYTES

April 7th – Ethan Beck
April 14th – Jenna Cianflone
April 21st – Lillian Beck
April 28th – Kaylee Dabney

ALTAR GUILD – March/April

Cheryl Kenney
Barb Burky

MINISTRY TEAM

PASTOR RUSSEL T. YOAK, SENIOR PASTOR: RUSYOAK@GMAIL.COM, 419-989-1575
GAYE SHIRA, LAY MINISTRY OF VISITATION: GSHIRA1@YAHOO.COM, 419-545-2277
PAUL MARTIN, MINISTRY OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC: FLCSHELBY@GMAIL.COM, 419-289-6361
ABC CENTER: ABCLEARNINGCENTERSHELBY@GMAIL.COM, 419-347-9246
BRIAN CRUM, TREASURER: BRIANCRUM83@GMAIL.COM 419-543-1819
SARAH MARTIN, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: MRS.SARAHMARTIN@GMAIL.COM, 419-571-6796
LOUISE HUNTER, FOOD PANTRY DIRECTOR: WEZIJIM@NEO.RR.COM, 419-295-3019

Website: FLCshelby.org

Facebook: [First Lutheran Shelby](https://www.facebook.com/FirstLutheranShelby)

YouTube: [Pastor Rus Yoak](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Church Office open 9-12	2 Church Office open 9-12 Property Committee Worship Committee	3 Church Office open 9-12 Food Pantry 9-11:30	4 Church Office open 9-12	5 Church Office open 9-12	6
7 Adult Bible Study 8:45 am Worship 10 am Youth Group - TBA	8 Church Office open 9-12 Finance Committee ABC Committees	9 Church Office open 9-12 Worship/Bible Study 6:00pm Council 7 pm	10 Church Office open 9-12 Food Pantry 9-11:30 Quilting 9:00am	11 Church Office open 9-12	12 Church Office open 9-12	13
14 Confirmation 8:45 am Worship 10 am Youth Group TBA	15 Church Office open 9-12 Meet Me On Monday Noon @ LaCarpesina	16 Church Office open 9-12	17 Church Office Open 9-12	18 Church Office Open 9-12	19 Church Office Open 9-12	20 BREAKFAST 8:00- 10:00AM
21 Adult Bible Study 8:45 am Worship 10am Youth Group TBA	22 Church Office open 9-12 SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR ENLIGHTENER	23 Church Office open 9-12	24 Church Office Open 9-12 Food Pantry 9- 11:30	25 Church Office open 9-12	26 Church Office open 9-12	27
28 Confirmation 8:45 Worship 10 am Youth Group TBA	29 Church Office open 9-12	30 Church Office open 9-12				