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SEPT 2024

THE ENLIGHTENER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Feeding our Soul

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"Grace and peace to you all from Christ our Lord,

There is something about the first few hints of Fall that I can't quite help being excited about. I feel the need to point out every tree and shrub that has begun to change from summertime greens to the more vivid Fall reds and golds. I know that not everyone shares my excitement at the coming of cooler weather and falling leaves, but I can't help but revel in all the changes that come with the season. I'm ready to put the shorts away and get the flannel out.

Part of what makes the change so exciting is the connection it has with my childhood memories of going back to school. Again, I know that not everyone shared my love of the return to classes and homework but the idea that a new school year represented a blank slate of new opportunities and fresh chances. A new year, a new season, a new project, a new challenge...these things always appeal to me because they represent the chance to create something better, even to BE something better.

I love a blank slate. In many ways that is what is so amazing about the faith we share. Martin Luther used to say that when you wake up in the morning and wash your face, remember your baptism. By that, he meant that the forgiveness of sin and the opportunity at a fresh chance was not a one-time offer. Even though you were baptized once, the renewal that comes with it is fresh every day, every hour, every minute. It's like a season that turns over to a fresh start every moment we live.

All too often the world wants us to live chained to our past failures and mistakes, but the Gospel is about being freed from that. The Gospel is about new chances that are born of God's grace so that we might know that our past failures cannot undo our future successes. We are as new as the changing season.

Enjoy the Fall, enjoy the change, enjoy the renewal.

Blessings,

Pastor Rus.

MUSIC NOTES – Paul Martin, Ministry of Worship & Music

New Music Opportunity:

We are putting together a wind instrument ensemble. If you play a wind instrument (such as flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and so on), we can use you! We would like to see this ensemble present special music in worship and accompany hymns. Please contact **Paul Martin if interested (flcshelby@gmail.com)**.

FINANCE – Brian Crum, Treasurer

Hi Everyone,

Well, I have mixed news for the financial side of things. The Church offering actually exceeded expenses by about \$200 in July. We still have \$47,000 in our contingency fund and another \$32,000 in undesignated memorials. So, on the one hand, things are looking okay. Unfortunately, we have still lost \$20,000 for the year, and I expect to lose another \$10,000 in August because offering was down a tad, and it is a three-pay month. So, we still have a little money in the bank, but we definitely need to do some planning to try and keep our heads above water. Additionally, we have had some pretty expensive repair costs on the building this year and the property fund is negative by about \$9,000. I was hoping that this would correct as the offering came in during the year, but I don't really see that happening due to normal expenditures. So, I will talk with the finance committee regarding whether we should do a fundraising drive to catch up that fund or pull it from our contingency fund. I have a similar issue with the youth group fund as my programming has put us behind by about \$2,000. On the ABC front, June and July were just about break-even months and the organization has a cash balance of \$257,000. August will be a bit of a rough month with three payrolls, and we need to work on getting more kids, but it is hanging in there.

Okay, now that I have depressed everyone, let's talk about some fun stuff. The youth group has had some fun this month. After the ice cream social, we hosted a slip and slide kickball game. We probably had a little less than 20 people attend, including not just our normal kids, but a couple kids from our bus stop as well as a few kids from the ABC Center. I am working really hard to include both of those groups in our activities as I interact with them daily. Last weekend we took 16 people (this time all church members) to Cedar Point for sort of a youth group kickoff party. We had an absolute blast, and I am so looking forward to working with the kids this year.

On the bus stop ministry side of things, we have kicked off the school year and are seeing a lot more activity in the building. A special thanks to everyone who helped to put together hygiene bags for the kids. Those went over really well. Most of these kids also attended the carnival and got school supplies from us, so thank you to everyone who was a part of that too. These things really do make a difference. These kids are starting to integrate with the kids from the youth group, and I do feel like they will start joining us more as the year goes on.

In other outreach items, while Pastor and I did not manage to get a young adult bible study kicked off in August like discussed, fall is a slower time of year for my work, so I hope that I can make some phone calls to our young population to see what we can do to get them more involved. I am also doing more with our daycare kids and hope to include those families too.

So, all in all, there is a lot of great stuff going on in my little corner of things. I am so grateful for every minute being a part of this family, and I appreciate you guys putting up with me!

Sincerely,
Brian

FOOD PANTRY – Louise Hunter, Food Pantry Director
Food Pantry donation request for September
Deodorant
SOAP...body, dish, or laundry

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY – Al and Sue Vogel
September 17th
10:00am ... Bring bagsVolunteers welcomed. Contact Al or Sue.



ABC LEARNING CENTER – Heather Murray, ABC Director

We had a great summer but as summer is coming to a close, we are looking forward to the new school year. At the beginning of September, we are starting a new curriculum called Pinnacle. It is a faith-based curriculum. We are excited to start using this curriculum and see where it takes our children. We still have openings for both children and staff. If you know of anyone that needs our care have them, call 419-347-9246.



RUBY’S PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Heavenly Father, remind us constantly that You love us even as parents love their children. Make us aware of Your concern not only for today but for all our days in this life and the next. Give us sure confidence that you cause all things to happen for our good in the long run. Help us, Your children, to return this great love with trust and respect. Give us the simple faith of a child in a beloved parent. For Jesus’ sake. Amen.

LET US PRAY...Prayer request for the month of September 2024

Scott Baker	Jennifer Furr	Judy Ream
Sally Barley	John Hancock	August Schreiber
Greg Beeching	Phil Jennings	Chris Shick
Cindy Burkett	Carole Jess	Joe Sparks
Bob Burky	Cohen Lewis	Myrna Spath
Martha Clark	Becky Loveless	Bill Spoljarick
Annalisha Corwin	Earl Lynch, Sr	Carol Spoljarick
Linda Crager	Emanuel Martin	Chip Stephens
Barb Davies	Joanne Martin	Diane Stiefel
Jackie Davies	Sam McElroy	Bob Stover
Meg Dean	Carol Nelson	Janet Stover
Sandy Ensman	Becky Papa	James Vess
Dorothy Foreman		

EVENTS

Meet me on Monday.....September 16th at Legends
Church Breakfast.... September 21st at First Lutheran Social Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From Mt. Hope Lutheran Church: The Ladies of H.O.P.E (Helping Other People Everywhere) of Mt Hope Lutheran Church Shiloh invite you to our annual Bible Study. We will be hosting this event on September 12th at 10:30am. We hope you can join us for spiritual renewal, fellowship and brunch.

RSVP (text or call) Bobette Dudley 419-895-313.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED -We have several church members that no longer drive but would like to attend our Sunday service. If you might be able to help, get our members to services, the church office would like to hear from you.

THANK YOU

Grace and Peace to you all from Christ our Lord,

I wanted to take a moment to offer a special word of thanks to all our volunteers. You always do a great job with all the ministries you take on here at First Lutheran, but I feel that you have been going above and beyond. In particular, our Ice Cream Social Auction and our Back to School Carnival were huge events that you did wonderfully. On behalf of myself, all the staff, and the leadership here at First Lutheran: thank you. You are what makes the congregation here really special and your ministry here is really such a beautiful testament to your faith and generous spirit.

God bless,
Pastor Rus

Thanks to everyone who volunteered for and attended the Back-to-School Carnival. You made it a great Success.

Sarah Martin

I would like to personally thank Mark McKown for all the hard work he put in on the old bench that came from Camp Mowana, in memory of our son Aaron. He tried hard to save the original one, but the wood was too damaged. So, he built a new one. It is beautiful! Be sure to check it out in front of our church office.

Pam Blankenhorn

SYMPATHY

Our condolences to the families of Michael Alan Van Vlerah and Ruth Greter

ORGAN DONATIONS

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT HAS BEEN MEANT!!

The Ice Cream Social and Auction brought in \$3,382.50

Total in the organ fund \$67,600.00

VISITATION LIST - September 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
MARTHA CLARK - KINGSTON OF ASHLAND – 20 Amberwood Pkwy, Ashland 44805
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, JOANNA RIGG, LOU ELLEN SAMPSEL - ONTARIO ESTATES-2010 Walker Lake Rd, Ontario 44906
GERALD SISINGER - THE WILLOWS-1050 Neal Zick Rd, Willard 44890

Bob Adams, 39 Mickey Rd, Shelby	419-347-8868
Marge Baird, 29 Riverview Dr, Shelby	419-347-2293
Jane Beeching, 47 Marvin Ave, Shelby	419-347-5255
Ruby Bonecutter, 65 Marvin Ave, Shelby	419-347-6234
Dorothy Foreman, 551 Bendle Ave, Shelby	419-612-1696
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
Becky Papay, 18 Grant Dr, Shelby	419-347-5465
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
Bob Stover, 16 Riverview, Shelby	419-543-5035

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 1st - Vicky Barre
September 3rd - Sarah Martin
September 5th - Jacob Stover
September 7th - Gail Dahn, Sue Schiffer
September 10th - Justin Dabney, Donald Hartge, Dawson VonStein
September 11th - Donald Jeffrey
September 13th - Barbara Burky
September 14th - Carole Jess
September 15th - Baylie White
September 17th - Walter Butler
September 18th - Brian Simpson
September 19th - Cassandra Lynch
September 20th - Deborah Beck, Earl Lynch, Michelle Glenwright
September 22nd - Danny Crum, Jimmy Crum, Glenn Nelson
September 23rd - Judy Messner
September 24th - Tonya Garofalo
September 27th - Ronald Jones
September 28th - Nita Linn
September 30th - Gregory Dodge, Colten Harvey, Riley Harvey



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September 1st - Donald and Becky Loveless, August and Patricia Schreiber
September 4th - Gregory and Melissa Vogel
September 6th - Doug and Shirley Huskey
September 9th - David and Nancy Keinath
September 11th - Brian and Wendy Gunder
September 15th - Garth and Michelle Montgomery
September 23rd - David and Wanda Long
September 24th - Ray and Gaye Shira
September 30th - Donald and Joyce Hartge

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

GOING BACK IN TIME...THE YEAR IS 1859...THE HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH

Early in the summer of 1859 Rev. John Stough of Ashland was approached by several Shelby Lutherans and asked about the possibility of establishing a Lutheran church in Shelby. The first services were held in the homes of interested families. On September 1, 1859, a service was held for the purpose of organizing the congregation and the First Lutheran Church of Shelby became an official body. There were forty charter members.

The congregation grew and it was soon necessary for the new congregation to arrange their own church building. This building was dedicated in September 1867. The congregation was incorporated on February 25, 1898.

Rev. William H. Singley, D.D., had been called in November 1898, "with the understanding that he should put forth every effort to erect a new church building which would be large enough and convenient enough to accommodate the work of the congregation". On June 20, 1898, work was begun to move the first building to the rear of the lot and the cornerstone for the new church was laid on August 28, 1898. This building was dedicated on March 12, 1899.

On January 30, 1926, Rev D. Bruce Young accepted our call and at that time the congregation had a membership of 827 and there was enrollment of 736 in the Sunday school. During Rev. Young's pastorate an Educational Building was completed and dedicated on October 1, 1939.

At a congregational meeting, held January 22, 1956, the congregation accepted the recommendation of the Centennial Committee that the present building be demolished, and a new Church be built on the same location. The last services in the old building were held on May 12, 1956.

On September 7, 1958, Cornerstone Laying Services were held at the new church site and the building was dedicated on May 19, 1959.

On December 31, 1962, Dr D. Bruce Young retired from the active ministry. He had completed fifty years in the ministry and for thirty-seven of those years he served as pastor of First Lutheran of Shelby.

Rev. James L Lumadue accepted our call and on December 8, 1963, conducted his first service as pastor.

The history of a church is necessarily concerned with dates and building programs, and it is not possible to confine the true worth of a church within such things. Its purpose is to sincerely witness to the glory of God, to renew and increase in us the gift of the Holy Spirit, to our strengthening in faith and to our growth in grace. Through the efforts of many people the First Lutheran Church of Shelby has done this, and this is its real history.

The "History of our Church" was taken from our first church directory. Date of printing and author of this article are unknown.

If you have someone you would like to spotlight or a church memory that you would like to share, please send your article to me (Debbie) at firstlutheranshelby@gmail.com

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS - SEPTEMBER 2024

GREETERS

Sept 1st - Sue Vogel
Sept 8th - Gaye Shira/Charlotte Butler
Sept 15th - Bobbie Clevenger
Sept 22nd - Sue Schiffer
Sept 29th - Carol McLaughlin

ASSISTING MINISTER

Sept 1st - Gaye Shira
Sept 8th - Nancy Crum
Sept 15th - Shirley Huskey
Sept 22nd - Pam Copper
Sept 29th - Kristie Yoak

LECTORS

Sept 1st - Renee Nastasi
Sept 8th - Pam Blankenhorn
Sept 15th - Kevin Calver
Sept 22nd - Sue Vogel
Sept 29th - Gaye Shira

RECEIPTS

Sept 1st - Mark McKown
Sept 8th - Dana Pennell
Sept 15th - Greg Eyster
Sept 22nd - Helen Eckenrode
Sept 29th - Darin Zinn

ACOLYTES

Sept 1st - Lillian Beck
Sept 8th - Kaylee Dabney
Sept 15th - Jenna Cianflone
Sept 22nd - Ethan Beck
Sept 29th - Lillian Beck

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sept 1st --Susie Clark
Sept 8th - Sally Hayes
Sept 15th -Charlotte Butler
Sept 22nd - Shira Family
Sept 29th - Sue Schiffer

COMMUNION ASISTANTS

Sept 1st - Gaye Shira, Charlotte Butler, Renee Nastasi
Sept 8th - Nancy Crum, Pam Blankenhorn, Mary Lee Barr
Sept 15th - Shirley Huskey, Sue Vogel, Cathy Dodge
Sept 22nd - Pam Copper, Sandy cornett, Ethan Beck
Sept 29th - Kristie Yoak, Katie Yoak, Hannah Yoak

ALTAR GUILD

September/October

Connie Brinson

Teresa Baird

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: WEZNJIM@NEO.RR.COM, 419-295-3019

Website: FLCshelby.org
[Facebook: First Lutheran Shelby](#)
[YouTube: Pastor Rus Yoak](#)

SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Church Office open 9-12	3 Church Office open 9-12 PROPERTY COMMITTEE WORSHIP COMMITTEE	4 Church Office open 9-12 Food Pantry 9-11:30	5 Church office open 9:00-Noon	6 Church office open 9:00- Noon	7
8 Adult Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am Youth Group - TBA	9 Church Office open 9-12 FINANCE COMMITTEE ABC COMMITTEE	10 Church Office open 9-12 WORSHIP/BIBLE STUDY 6:00	11 Church Office open 9-12 Food Pantry 9-11:30 QUILTING 9:00AM	12 Church Office open 9-12	13 Church Office open 9-12	14
15 Confirmation 8:45am Worship 10 am Youth Group TBA	16 Church Office open 9-Noon Meet Me on Monday	17 Church Office open 9-Noon Mobile Food Pantry	18 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30	19 Church Office Open 9- Noon	20 Church Office open 9- Noon	21 Church Breakfast 8:00-10:00
22 Adult Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10am Youth Group	23 Church Office open 9-Noon SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE ENLIGHTENER	24 Church Office open 9-Noon	25 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30	26 Church Office open 9-Noon	27 Church Office open 9-Noon	28
29 Confirmation 8:45am Worship 10 am Youth Group TBA	30 Church Office Open 9-Noon					

