



En

OCT 2024

THE ENLIGHTENER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Feeding our Soul

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

Our nation seems to have settled on a particular obsession with all things spooky. As we move toward Halloween every year I feel compelled to remind the world that all Halloween is a foreshortening of the phrase "All Hallows Eve"...as in the night before All Hallows Day...or all Saints Day. Yes, lots of fun traditions have grown up around this holiday that we have celebrated since the earliest days of the Christian church (nearly 4 centuries before Christianity encountered the Celts of Ireland...so no, it does not have a pagan origin). However, it has always been our holiday for remembering loved ones who have passed on.

Yes, October is, among other things, the month of All Saints Day...our opportunity to remember all those who have entered fully into the Kingdom of God ahead of us. But, the commemoration is hardly a day to remember those who are no longer with us, it is much more about recognizing how we are still united with those we have lost. The author of Hebrews says, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us" (Heb 12:1). This is to remind us that although we may not see those we have lost, it does not mean that they don't see us. Although we may no longer be able to speak to them, or they to us, they still pray for us, watch over us, and share in a common united body with us.

After all, we are reminded that we are all the Body of Christ now. Christ lived, died, and was raised up from the dead to sit at the right hand of God. The Body of Christ includes those living yet in this life, and those already in the Kingdom to come. As such, we know that we are yet a part of one another's life. It is this assurance and comfort that the author of Hebrews hopes will inspire us to live lives worthy of the gift we have received...to "run with endurance the race God has set before us".

We miss our loved ones when they are far away, whether they are separated from us by distance or death. Yet, this season of the life of the church reminds us that we do not mourn as the world does. We do not lose hope when faced with being away from those we love, as we know that this is but a temporary pause in the union that is to come when all shall be gathered at last to our Father's home in heaven.

So enjoy a Halloween candy, and feel free to Trick or Treat...but don't forget this is our holiday, our commemoration, and it is centered on our Hope in Christ. All Saints Day.

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

Well, I have mixed news from my office this month. Unfortunately, financially, I don't have a lot of great things to say. August was a three-payroll month, so both the Church and Daycare took pretty big hits. For the year, the Church is down about \$28,000 and the ABC Center is down about \$53,000. The Church has about \$60,000 in reserve between the contingency fund and the ABC Center still has a little over \$230,000. This week I will contact the IRS regarding the status of our Employee Retention Credit refund. Hopefully that will come through to help us out.

The youth group has kicked things off in grand fashion. We went canoeing a few weeks ago. We took 19 people including 4 of our bus stop ministry kids. While we had our own challenges, it was a fabulous day. Last week Cassie planned out a fabulous program for youth group where we split into age groups to do some more targeted lessons. This upcoming week we will be doing a service project for the City Parks after Church. So lots of good things going on with youth group.

The Bus Stop Ministry has also kicked off. We have around 20 kids who stop for a snack daily. About a dozen of them are interested in participating in youth group activities, and I think, after some adjustments, they will fit in well. We are always in need of snacks, particularly individually wrapped chips, little Debbies, other cookies, pop tarts, chewy granola bars, NutriGrain bars, fruit snacks, or anything else anyone would like to provide. We are also working to potentially get someone to be in the office in the afternoons to work with the kids and maybe do some youth programming at the same time. So while an extreme challenge, this ministry is also growing nicely. I really appreciate everyone's help!

Sincerely,
Brian

FOOD PANTRY – Louise Hunter, Food Pantry Director **Food Pantry donation request for October**

PAPER TOWELS



ABC LEARNING CENTER – Heather Murray, ABC Director

The new school year has started. We have been getting used to our new curriculum and the children are loving it. This month's theme was "My Wonderful World". With weekly themes such as I am special, My family, My friends, and my school. We also have weekly bible focus themes as well. This month's weekly bible themes are Jesus loves me, God cares about us, Godly friends are the best friends and God's word teaches us. Last week they were learning about Dr. Seuss, so we had a fun day of wacky Wednesday. We are going to have a fun day or fun event once a month. In October we will be having our fall parties. Also, we will be partnering with the church for trunk or treat for the community outreach. We are looking forward to reaching the children of our community. We still have openings for children. If you know someone that needs care, tell them about us.

God Bless, Heather



CHURCH OFFICE – Debbie Crum

I am excited to announce we now have a church historian. Dan Crum and Fred Beeching have volunteered to organize and display our church history. Please read on....

OUR CHURCH HISTORY

As I begin this article, I want to quickly introduce myself. This is Dan Crum, and I have been a member of First Lutheran for most of my life. I have always enjoyed history, and the history of our Church is unbelievable. Our Church is and has always been a very important part of our community.

Back in the mid 1990's I was asked to join our Church Council, and I was exposed to the small storage room in the Church office. Buried in the back of that room were boxes of information dealing with our church dating back to the beginning on September 1, 1870 when it was formed with 40 original members. Now, 30 years later I want to tackle the project of putting this formation together in chronological order and make it available for our church members and everyone in our community, and anyone else that might be interested in our history.

This year is a year of special dates. September 1st marked our 155th Anniversary. October 1st marks the 85th Anniversary of our "Educational Building", and May 10th marked the 65th Anniversary of our "New Sanctuary". While there is a wealth of information in the files that we have, I have not been able to locate many records from the last 70 years. This is where I need help from everyone who may have factual information on our church history during this time period.

I am not the most technological person out there, but I would like to see this information on our church web page, Facebook, articles in the Enlightener, and hard copies in an "Archive Room" that our members can pursue at their convenience.

This is where I need help. First, if there is important information that you remember about the church, write it down and leave it at the office, or email me. Secondly, I need help reviewing the information that we have and putting it in order, thirdly, this information needs to be scanned, typed up and entered in any media that we have available. Any ideas are welcome.

This is not all about the past. JUST MAYBE, we can reach others in our community that would like to get involved and would like to become part of our church family. We just have to get the information out there. Please help if you can, my email address is crumdan1955@gmail.com.

Thank you, Dan



RUBY’S PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Dear Lord and Counselor, may we never forget that You are the source of all good; that You are the prompter of all every good deed; that You are the origin of every true service which we render to God. Keep us from self-righteousness and false pride in our “good works”. Help each one of our church family to seek your guidance in sharing family responsibilities; influence our thinking and planning for the immediate weeks ahead, for the many changes and adjustments in store for us. Give us an urgent will to do our part in meeting the spiritual and material challenges before us. Let us know your will in our lives and make us instruments of your peace. For Jesus’ sake.

Amen.

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

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

EVENTS

October 6th “Friendship Sunday”. First Lutheran begins a new aspect of Outreach ministry through a monthly “Friendship Sunday” on the first Sunday of each month. We will be featuring inspired worship, a welcoming atmosphere, and great fellowship!

October 12th- Church Cleaning. We are planning a church cleaning day with specific areas of cleaning. Contact Gaye Shira for further information. There is a sign-up sheet at the church, or you may contact the church office to sign up. Your help is appreciated.

October 19th -Church Breakfast at First Lutheran Social Hall

October 21 - Meet me on Monday at the Golden Corral

October 26th – Trunk or Treat

You're invited to participate in Trunk or Treat

Please sign-up to bring your car and pass out candy. The sign-up sheet will be passed around during worship services. We will need to know if you are coming so we will have a space available for you.

Where: FLC Parking Lot

When: Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024
Time: After the parade passes the Broadway Intersection—
Approx. 2:15 pm.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. (419-347-7675)

ORGAN DONATIONS **DOUBLE YOUR GIFT HAS BEEN MEANT!!**

The \$15,000.00 match funds were given in memory of Janet Susan Goodwyn April 15, 1946 – October 25, 2023 by sister, Helen Eckenrode

Thank you to everyone that helped with the match.

The ending balance in the organ fund is \$68,172.06



Thank you to Helen Eckenrode for your generous gift in Susan's memory.

The Willing Workers Quilters want to thank Helen Eckenrode for her generous gifts of cutting blades and spools of knotting thread and Judy Hoover and Emma for the wonderful work they do finishing the borders on all the quilts.

Sue Schiffer

Dear Church Family, many thanks for the prayers and condolences extended to us at the sudden passing of husband/father Mike. We were overwhelmed with all your kindnesses. From calls, food, visits and memorial gifts, we say thanks!

Love, Lana Van Vlerah, Jeff & Brian Van Vlerah, Amy Gearheart and families.

We want to thank everyone for their kind words, cards, and the wonderful support that we received recently during the passing of my brother, Mike Van Vlerah. During a tough time like this, support from our church family means so much. Thank you.

Sue and Al Vogel

The outside Mobile Food Pantry is over for this year. A BIG thank you to everyone who volunteered and worked very hard at these food distributions. This ministry could not go on without the time and work that each one of you as volunteers puts forth to offer this ministry to our community. Thank you so very much!

Sue and Al Vogel

SYMPATHY

Our condolences to the family of Richard W. "Dick" Shellhouse

Our condolences to the family of Rebecca "Becky" Papay

VISITATION LIST - October 2024

MARTHA CLARK – CRESTWOOD CARE CENTER, 225 W. Main Street, Shelby 44875
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
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 (Gerald's daughter)
Jim & Shirley Stine, 18 W Maxwell, Shelby 419-631-9761
Bob Stover, 16 Riverview, Shelby 419-543-5035



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Oct 2nd – Cynthia Bodkin
Oct 4th – Laura Lewis, Jodi Paterson
Oct 5th – Jilian Ericsson, Lily Ericsson
Oct 6th – Terri Hummel, Makenna Weltmer
Oct 7th – Kolten Kurtz, Kimberly Nadolsky
Oct 9th – Mary Dodge, Emma Yockey
Oct 10th – Patricia Holland
Oct 12th – B. Wertman
Oct 13th – David Long, Cody Paterson, Dana Pennell
Oct 14th – Evan Montgomery, Connie Roth, Eric Vogel
Oct 16th – Lucas Cianflone, Charles Leemaster, Jody Yockey
Oct 17th – Patrick Heydinger, Emily Hughes
Oct 20th – Mark McKown
Oct 22nd – Gregory Eyster
Oct 23rd – Roger Baird
Oct 24th – Jackson Evans, Renee Simpson
Oct 25th – Patricia Baird, Brian Crum
Oct 26th – Leora Lantz Carolyn Metzger, Catherine Uplinger
Oct 27th – Sydney Gunder
Oct 29th – Linda Bloomfield, Gaye Shira
Oct 30th – Nicholas Lynch
Oct 31st – Thomas Sensmeier

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Oct 3rd – Michael & Connie Ament
Oct 4th – Jason & Amy Yantis
Oct 5th – Matt & Sandra Cornett
Oct 8th – Alfred & Suzanne Vogel
Oct 9th – Walter & Charlotte Butler
Oct 12th – Michael & Anna Dick
Oct 15th – Ronald & Renee Nastasi
Oct 16th – Brian & Susan Stover
Oct 17th – Shane & Chelsea Myers
Oct 20th – Gregory & Susan Eyster
Oct 22nd – Mark & Peggy McKown
 Thomas & Carol Wagner
Oct 23rd – Douglas & Kimberly Love
Oct 24th – Scott & Barbara Harvey
 Harold & Diane Stiefel
Oct 31st – Steve & Nancy Tischer

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

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

A graphic of a spotlight with a grey body and a black lens, casting a bright yellow beam of light towards the right. The beam illuminates a yellow rectangular box containing the text 'IN THE SPOTLIGHT'.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Carol McLaughlin

In our spotlight for October, we would like to recognize Carol McLaughlin.

Carol became a member of First Lutheran Church shortly after moving to Shelby in January 1970, with her family.

She has been involved in different aspects of church ministry over the last 54 years, starting with church council in 1979 and continuing to be a member of council off and on up to the present time.

She has participated in several projects over the years. One of the projects was being Co-chairman with Diane Holtz for the Church Directory in 1979 and again in 2009.

One fun event for Carol was being Co-Chairman twice with Gail Dahn for Vacation Bible School. In 2009 Carol was able to travel with our Church Youth Group on a Mission Trip to her hometown in New Orleans. To make this trip even more memorial and special for Carol was her granddaughter, Kasi as she was part of the Youth Group at the time and also made the trip.

Sometime in the early 1980's Carol was on the Social Ministry Committee with Pastor Albert and the Committee thought it would be a good idea to start a Food Pantry. It was small in the beginning. The next people to manage the food pantry was Barb Furr and her mother, Nadine Baxter. Hard work and dedication took the food pantry to where it is today. Carol has remained involved and still enjoys working in the pantry. She yearly puts together the gift baskets for the Mother's Day Drawing. The proceeds go to the food pantry. Being a "happy people person" she truly enjoys helping to feed the community. Her involvement doesn't stop there. She is one of our church gardeners taking care of the outside flower beds.

Carol's dedication to her ministry goes on! We at First are very fortunate that Carol choose Shelby, Ohio and became a part of our church family 54 years ago.

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 – OCTOBER 2024

GREETERS	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS
Oct 6th - Pam Blankenhorn/Mary Lee Barr	Oct 6th - Gaye Shira	Oct 6th - Shirley Huskey
Oct - 13th - Cathy Dodge	Oct - 13th - Nancy Crum	Oct - 13th - Scott Harvey
Oct-20th - Bobbie Clevenger	Oct-20th - Pam Copper	Oct-20th - Renee Nastasi
Oct 27th - Judy Messner	Oct 27th - Shirley Huskey	Oct 27th - Kari Case
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	RECEIPTS	ACOLYTES
Oct 6th - Gaye Shira, Charlotte Butler, Carol McLaughlin	Oct 6th - Sarah Martin	Oct 6th - Kaylee Dabney
Oct - 13th - Nancy Crum, Pat Saltzgarber, Cassie Gates	Oct - 13th - Bill Parr	Oct - 13th - Jenna Cianflone
Oct-20th - Pam Copper, Kari, Rebekah, and Leah Case	Oct-20th - Carol McLaughlin	Oct-20th - Ethan Beck
Oct 27th - Shirley Huskey, Pam Blankenhorn, Mary Lee Barr	Oct 27th - Kelly Crum	Oct 27th - Lillian Beck
ALTAR FLOWERS	ALTAR GUILD - OCTOBER	
Oct 6th - Susie Clark	Connie Brinson	
Oct - 13th - Cathy Dodge	Teresa Baird	
Oct-20th - Peggy McKown		
Oct 27th - OPEN		

DO IT ANYWAY

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.

Succeed anyway

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.

Be honest and sincere anyway

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.

Create anyway

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.

Be happy anyway

The good you do today, will often be forgotten.

Do good anyway

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.

Give your best anyway

In the final analysis, it is between you and GOD. It was never between you and them anyway

This version is credited to Mother Teresa

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OCTOBER 2024		1 Church Office open 9-12 PROPERTY COMMITTEE WORSHIP COMMITTEE	2 Church Office open 9-12 Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	3 Church office open 9:00-Noon DIRECTORY COMMITTEE 10:00	4 Church office open 9:00-Noon	5
6 Adult Bible Study 8:45am Youth Group – TBA FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY Worship 10 am	7 Church Office open 9-12	8 Church Office open 9-12 COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 WORSHIP/BIBLE STUDY 6:00	9 Church Office open 9-12 Food Pantry 9-11:30 QUILTING 9:00AM Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	10 Church Office open 9-12	11 Church Office open 9-12	12 CLEANING CHURCH NEED VOLUNTEERS
13 Confirmation 8:45am Worship 10 am Youth Group TBA	14 Church Office open 9-Noon FINANCE COMMITTEE ABC COMMITTEE	15 Church Office open 9- Noon	16 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	17 Church Office Open 9-Noon	18 Church Office open 9-Noon	19 CHURCH BREAKFAST 8:00- 10:00
20 Adult Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10am Youth Group	21 Church Office open 9-Noon MEET ME ON MONDAY – GOLDEN CORRAL SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE ENLIGHTENER	22 Church Office open 9-Noon	23 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	24 Church Office open 9-Noon	25 Church Office open 9-Noon	26 TRUNK OR TREAT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PARADE CHURCH PARKING LOT
27 Confirmation 8:45am Worship 10 am Youth Group TBA	28 Church Office Open 9-Noon	29	30 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	31 Church Office open 9-Noon		