

NOV 2024

# THE ENLIGHTENER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Feeding our Soul

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Grace and Peace to you all from Christ our Lord,

Like many of you I have watched the events of the world we live in and reflected on all the pain that seems to surround us. I have looked at pain from conflicts like what we see in the Middle East, pain from natural disasters and random catastrophes and wondered "why?"

The problem of pain was the subject of a number of the great Christian apologist C.S. Lewis' works. Lewis, who came to the faith later in life, had struggled with the age-old question of "why does a good God allow bad things to happen" before he came to the faith. His good friend and fellow college professor (and initials in place of name enthusiast) J.R.R. Tolkien spent many evenings sitting in a pub with the good Dr. Lewis trying to work through the theological ramifications of pain, or in other words, "why does God do, or not do, what God does...or not". The subset of theology that deals with this is called "Theodicy". Lewis could come to grips with the pain that was caused by human faults and sin. Lewis, who was an Irishman from Belfast, had served in the British army during World War One and as such, he had a keen understanding of the damage humans can do to one another. He understood that human born evil broke bodies, ruined families, and destroyed nations. He had seen it firsthand in the trenches of the Somme Valley in France. What he could not wrap his mind around as a young man was the pain we as humans suffer from for no reason but dumb luck.

Watching the footage of the floods in North Carolina, the hurricane damage in Florida, and the devastation in parts of the nation after a particularly bad wildfire season, one might think the very planet itself is out to get us. What do we say when we see the pain of our neighbors and have to address the question of where is God in all of this? Jesus himself addresses this question in the 13th Chapter of Luke when he points to a clear human caused tragedy where The Roman Governor Pilate had executed a group of Jews while they were at worship, then he points to a group of construction workers killed in a building collapse as they were building a tower. He makes it clear that neither the human tragedy of Roman oppression nor the natural disaster of the collapsed building was better or worse than the other. Pain was pain and suffering was suffering. Then in the 5th vs he says this about those who died in the natural disaster: "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish". Read out of context this seems like a harsh thing to say.

The conclusion that CS Lewis came to the one that facilitated his conversion to Christianity...is that God uses human suffering to redirect the hearts of the people. That is to say God uses pain like a roadmap that points us back to our need for him. When Jesus says "repent" this isn't an angry accusation, it is the voice of a would-be rescuer shouting to a drowning flood victim to grab hold of the rope they have thrown them. Jesus sees pain, as Lewis did, as a means by which humans can be brought back to a right state of faith in God. Pain exists in this world because the world has fallen from the pain-free, perfect state that it was meant to be. Sin exists because we allow it to. But God uses that pain to draw our eyes away from our brokenness to look to his grace, mercy, and love.

Here in November as you reflect on all the things you are thankful for, take a moment and give thanks, not for the pain of life, but for the grace of God that uses that pain to lift us up to new life.

Blessings,  
Pastor Rus.

**MUSIC NOTES – Paul Martin, Ministry of Worship & Music**

A note of thanks... I am so proud of our music ensembles here at First Lutheran. They work so hard and do it all for the glory of God! In addition to our Choir and Bell Choir, our newly formed Wind Ensemble did a great job on Reformation Sunday, and we have seen interest from so many. We ask that you prayerfully consider being a part of one of our ensembles. Also, our kids did a fantastic job singing for the congregation!

We have reached the half-way point of fundraising for the needed renovations to our beloved pipe organ! Thank you to all who have so generously given thus far. The music ministry at First Lutheran is such a vital part of the Church's ministry and reaches far past our walls. The music ministry has even seen support in the past year from some who watch our online service each week. We ask that you continue to pray for and support this ministry as you are able.

We are currently working on a big concert event at First Lutheran to bring in Gospel music artist Jason Crabb. Jason and his family are some of the biggest names in the industry, and we have been contacted to try to put something together for the Shelby community! Prayers and assistance will be needed to make this happen. Ask Paul if you have any questions.

Lastly, we have made the switch to our new online worship system! The first official run was on Reformation Sunday, and all in all, it went great! We will continue to improve and perfect our online presence as we have a significant following from outside the church!

There are definite ways for you to become involved at the church in these ministries! Just reach out to Paul on a Sunday, or during the week, to find out how!

**FINANCE – Brian Crum, Treasurer**

A finance report was not available at the time of this mailing as Brian and Kelly are on a much-needed vacation.

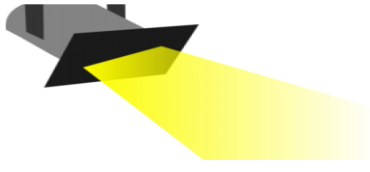
**FOOD PANTRY – Louise Hunter, Food Pantry Director**

Food Pantry donation request for November

**DEODORANT, SOAP, SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER**

**ABC LEARNING CENTER – Heather Murray, ABC Director**

Happy fall y'all! I think the fall weather is finally here. Time to break out the sweatshirts and sweaters. As Thanksgiving is coming up, we are looking to have a family luncheon with our families. The parents will be able to come in and have Thanksgiving lunch with their children. Also, at this time of Thanksgiving I want to give thanks to all the hardworking teachers and staff here at ABC. They are the backbone of our center and keep us running every day. I want to give thanks to all the parents and children that make this place what it is, without them we would not have a center. Finally, I want to say thanks to everyone that made it possible for me to have this opportunity to serve this center as the director. I feel so blessed that I have been given this opportunity and look forward to more opportunities to serve this community.



## *IN THE SPOTLIGHT*

### ***December 1923.... the beginning of the creation of the Church Office.***

In December 1923, When Rev. Tome began his pastorate here, two items seem to lead to the beginnings of the “Church Office”. They were, first, about providing office supplies for the Pastor, and second, he asked about the advisability of getting a secretary for the church. These items were discussed, which led to the use of the front room on the north side of the parsonage called a “Work Room”. It was decided that rugs and a table were needed, along with the multigraph and hand-operated address-o-graph which were already owned by the congregation. A typewriter was soon added.

Mrs. Lester Stephan was secured by the committee to be the first Church Secretary in the “Work Room”, giving what we now call part-time work, serving till the spring of 1925. She was the Financial Secretary of the congregation, handling all incoming offerings of the Church, multi-graphing the Church Yearbook, multi-graphing the reports of all Wittenberg pledges and receipts, and was stenographer for the pastor. It seems that for this work she was paid about \$ .40 per hour.

In January 1967, we gained possession of the former Nazarene Church building and after remodeling, the office staff moved into their new quarters in the fall of 1972.

The secretaries who have served our congregation were: Mrs. Mary Stephan, Miss Etta Bistline, Miss Artie Smith, Mrs. Rachel Morse, Miss Alma Rambo, Miss Josephine Snyder, Mrs. Ruth Steele, Miss Louise Wiest, Mrs. Ruby Crum, Mrs. Leota Boyce, Mrs. Eloise Swank, Mrs. Jane Barton, Mrs. Margaet Laws, Mrs. Mary Adams, Mrs. Carolyn Bricker, Mrs. Linda Uts, Mrs. Pamela Frank, Mrs. Mary Platt, Mrs. Lana Van Vlerah, Mrs. Suzanne Vogel, and Ms. Starr Stacklin.

### *Fast-forward to 2024...*

A lot has happened in the church office building since moving in, in 1972. Council meetings, committee meetings, a variety of other gatherings and folks just stopping by. Along with the offices for staff, we have our Scout Troop 406 in the basement and have made space for Brian Crum CPA LLC Accounting and Taxation Services. Our Bus Kids have been given an area in the conference room to hang out.

The office secretary has changed, too. No longer do we have paid full-time employees. Now we have volunteers that keep the office open on a daily basis to serve our church members and the public. I am grateful and blessed to have such wonderful ladies to work with: Shirley Huskey, Pam Blankenhorn, Nancy Medley and I are here weekly. When we need extra help, we have backup volunteers that are very gracious with their time. We keep the office open Monday through Friday, 9:00am to Noon.

The building itself is showing the signs of time. Upgrading has begun “slowly”. Within the past couple of months, the two front offices have received paint and new carpet. Brian, through his business hired his office painted and they helped Dan with the painting of the front offices. Brian paid for the carpet in the halls and Finance office. A big thank you to them! Thank you to the Property Committee for helping fund the front offices carpet. Thank you to the Endowment Committee for funding the new blinds. A big thank you to Judy Hoover for paying to have the windows washed in the conference room. Nothing lasts forever as the curtains fell apart in the washing machine. Dan rebuilt all the conference room chairs, but the wood is so rotten, the screws fell out. So, yes, we are in need of new conference room chairs and window treatments.

It's a start! While the whole building needs attention, the next projects will be giving the lobby a face lift...drywall, paint, and flooring; the two bathrooms will become one unisex handicap bathroom needing a wall removed, handicap railings and flooring. While the remaining areas need flooring and painting, (Pastor Rus' office and the conference room), a handicap ramp is much needed to be built at the side entrance. As our building has aged, sadly, so has our congregation. In time, as the Property Committee secures funds and through donations, it is hoped that these upgrades can be completed.

Debbie Crum, Church Office

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](mailto:firstlutheranshelby@gmail.com)

### **CHURCH HISTORY - Dan Crum, Historian**

In last month's Enlightener, I introduced myself and said that I was going to attempt to make our Church history available to everyone. To accomplish this, the majority will have to be done by adding to our church website, and possibly adding supplements to the Enlightener. I would also like to display some of this in the bookcases in the parlor.

Over the past month, I have spent many hours digging through boxes of dusty files that have not been touched in years. Today date, I believe that I have located all of the Church Directories, and most of the Confirmation Class pictures dating back to 1951. For the most part, these have the names of our Confirmands, unfortunately, I do not have all of the names. If you were confirmed at First Lutheran and would like to help identify some of these individuals, I would appreciate your help.

I have also located all of the special edition Church Anniversary brochures, which date back to the early 1900s. These are amazing and contain information that most of us have never seen. These will have to be put on our website, as they are very long and detailed.

There is also extensive information and photos on the building of our new church which was completed in 1959. This information includes all of the support information dating back to the mid-1950s when the decisions were made to build the new church.

This is just the start, and it's going to take time as I have only scratched the surface. I can't do this by myself at least in my lifetime, so if there's anybody that would like to help, please let me know.

Blessings, Dan

### **RUBY'S PRAYER OF THE MONTH**

O God our Father, we Christian followers of Jesus Christ, give thanks for the good news of his gospel – “that God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, that everyone who has faith in him may not die but have eternal life.” Keep our faith strong in Thy gospel. Let it be our most precious possession to keep and to share. Let us keep it always for ourselves by giving it away. We remember the Babe and the Cross; in his name we pray.

**Amen.**

## **LET US PRAY...Prayer request for the month of November 2024**

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

## **EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The 2024 Community Christmas Program sponsored by Shelby Help Line Ministries was kicked off on September 20<sup>th</sup> with a lunch and meeting. First Lutheran will once again be doing the Angel Giving Tree. See the information below:

### **ANGEL GIVING TREE**

The Angel Giving Tree will be going up in the sanctuary on November 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be receiving 35 to 40 children to buy for this year. Your participation in this program is greatly appreciated.

Gifts must be brought in no later than NOON on December 3rd, as all gifts are scheduled to be moved to Help Line at 1:00pm on December 3rd)

- Please put each child's gifts in one large **Christmas Gift Bag**
- Tie the Angel on the handle of the Gift bag
- Remove the price tag on all items
- Do not include store receipts or gift receipts
- **DO NOT WRAP!** However, if you want to put a roll of wrapping paper in the bag the staff at the Help Line will wrap your gifts after they are checked in.

The Salvation Army has suggested that we spend a minimum of \$50.00 on each child.

### **SODA CRACKERS ARE NOW BEING COLLECTED**

First Lutheran has once again been asked to collect soda crackers. We will be partnering with Shelby Missionary Alliance. Our goal this year is 125 boxes of soda crackers.

**Please drop off at the church or church office by NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Meet Me on Monday** - November 18<sup>th</sup> at Golden Corral Buffet & Grill

**Church Breakfast** - November 16<sup>th</sup> in church social hall

### **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER**

**Thanksgiving Dinner** -Join us on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, 12-2pm

- **We are currently taking orders for Thanksgiving meals**
- **There is a sign-up sheet for KITCHEN HELP NEEDED...Nov 27 and/or Nov 28**
- **There is a sign-up sheet for Pie Donations and other Food.... turkey/ham**

## **POINSETTIA ORDER**

It is truly hard to believe, but it is almost time to order poinsettias. Order forms will be placed on the table in the church hall or you can pick one up at the church office.

We have been asked to submit our order no later than December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **SHEPHERD MINISTRY**

Our Shepherd Ministry is in need of volunteers.

At the end of the year there will be **8** openings in the Shepherd Ministry. The Shepherd's Ministry mails out cards to our church members for various holidays and events such as condolences and illnesses or "Thinking of you" cards. We send cards to shut-ins and to those in the nursing home. The church office will be the contact persons to oversee the program keeping track of changes such as addresses, phone numbers, deceased, new members, etc., and passes that information on to the appropriate Shepherd to update their list. Should you be interested in doing this kind of ministry, please contact the church Office.

## **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**

We have several church members that no long 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)

## **VISITATION LIST - November 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  
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**

Nov 1<sup>st</sup> Natalie Dabney  
 Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> Douglas Huskey  
 Samuel McElroy  
 Patricia  
 Saltzgaber  
 Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> Terry Baker  
 Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Earl Lynch  
 Nov 7<sup>th</sup> Jeremy Holloway  
 Gracelynn Reed  
 Nov 8<sup>th</sup> Ronald Nastasi  
 Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Pamela Blankenhorn  
 Nov 12<sup>th</sup> Terry Boice  
 Nov 13<sup>th</sup> Carleigh Yantis

Nov 14<sup>th</sup> Cruz Caudill  
 Karen Harvey  
 Scott Harvey  
 Nov 16<sup>th</sup> Denise Heydinger  
 Nov 17<sup>th</sup> Kaylee Dabney  
 Nov 18<sup>th</sup> Katherine Yoak  
 Nov 19<sup>th</sup> Kristina Dabney  
 Sherry Hebble  
 Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> John Medley  
 Nov 24<sup>th</sup> Hazel Bebow  
 Nov 25<sup>th</sup> Elaine Lybarger  
 Nov 26<sup>th</sup> Rylie White



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Nov 10 – Todd & Tamara Armintrout  
 Nov 16<sup>th</sup> – Patrick and Denise Heydinger  
 Nov 17<sup>th</sup> – Scott and Deborah Beck  
 Nov 26<sup>th</sup> – Jeremiah and Lynnette Roth

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS – NOVEMBER 2024**

**GREETERS**

Nov 3rd - Sue Vogel  
 Nov 10 - Sue Schiffer  
 Nov 17th - Bobbie Clevenger  
 Nov 24th - Carol McLaughlin

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

Nov 3rd - Kristie Yoak  
 Nov 10th - Gaye Shira  
 Nov 17th - Pam Copper  
 Nov 24th - Nancy Crum

**LECTORS**

Nov 3rd - Pam  
 Blankenhorn  
 Nov 10th - Gaye Shira  
 Nov 17th - Shirley  
 Huskey  
 Nov 24th - Kari Case

**RECEIPTS**

Nov 3rd - Cassie Gates  
 Nov 10<sup>th</sup> - CeCe VanStein  
 Nov 17<sup>th</sup> - JR Hoover  
 Nov 24th - Pam Blankenhorn

**ACOLYTES**

Nov 3rd - Kaylee /Dabney  
 Nov 10th - Ethan Beck  
 Nov 17th - Lillian Beck  
 Nov 24th - Paysen Sensmeier

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Nov 3rd – Gaye Shira  
 Nov 10th – Kari Case  
 Nov 17th – Fred Lee  
 Nov 24th – Pam Copper

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

Nov 3rd -Kristie Yoak, Katie Yoak, Hannah Yoak  
 Nov 10th - Gaye Shira, Charlotte Butler, Ethan Beck  
 Nov 17th - Pam Copper, Mark & Peggy McKown  
 Nov 24th - Shirley Huskey, Pat Saltzgarber, Cathy Dodge

**ALTAR GUILD**

November/December  
 Sandy Cornett  
 Hazel BeBow

**MINISTRY TEAM**

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

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

## NOVEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Church office open 9:00-Noon	2
3 Table Talk 8:45- 9:30am, rm 6  All Saints Sunday <b>FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY</b> Worship 10 am  Confirmation meeting, Sanctuary 11:15  Youth Group TBA	4 Church Office open 9-12	5 Church Office open 9-12 COUNCIL MEETING 7:00	6 Church Office open 9-12 Food Pantry 9-11:30 QUILTING 9:00AM Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	7 Church Office open 9-12	8 Church Office open 9-12	9
10 Table Talk 8:45- 9:30am, rm 6  Worship 10 am  Youth Group TBA  Acolyte Training, Sanctuary, 11:15	11 Church Office open 9-Noon FINANCE COMMITTEE ABC COMMITTEE	12 Church Office open 9-Noon	13 Church Office Open 9-Noon  Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	14 Church Office Open 9-Noon	15 Church Office open 9-Noon	16  <b>CHURCH BREAKFAST</b>
17 Table Talk 8:45-9:30am, rm 6  Worship 10am Youth Group TBA  Confirmation Class, 5:00pm	18 Church Office open 9-Noon <b>MEET ME ON MONDAY – NOON AT GOLDEN CORREL</b>	19 Church Office open 9-Noon	20 Church Office Open 9-Noon  Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	21 Church Office open 9-Noon	22 Church Office open 9-Noon	23
24 Table Talk 8:45- 9:30am, rm 6  Worship 10 am  Youth Group TBA	25 Church Office Open 9-Noon	26	27 Church Office Open 9-Noon  Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	28 Church Office open 9-Noon	29	30