

DEC 2024

THE ENLIGHTENER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Feeding our Soul

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

33 Broadway Street
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Few seasons of the year really have the impact that Christmas and Advent do. In all of our year, we do our best to honor the spirit of what the birth of Christ means to us, but at this time of year, it floats to the forefront of our lives. At its best, this season inspires us to acts of kindness and generosity. At its worst, it drives us to overburden our lives with unrealistic expectations, pressures, and financial burdens. Like too many things, the season can become overwhelmed with too much of a good thing.

I would like to suggest an idea that I am calling "Hallmark decorations". If you have ever watched a Hallmark Christmas movie (and who hasn't) you may have noticed that the homes are all beautifully decorated. My wife and I have spent time analyzing what makes the homes in these movies so lovely. It isn't that the decorations are sparse, but at the same time, they are not cluttered or overwhelming. Usually, it is one or two simple things like garlands, trees, or white lights, that are clearly high quality, carefully arranged, consistent, and natural looking.

I want to suggest that our own homes...and more importantly our hearts, would do well to follow the "Hallmark decoration" rules. The season does not need to be cram-packed with events, presents, expectations, and pressures. It is enough that we choose the simple beauty of celebrating Christ's birth and keep it as our centerpiece. After that, we can hang some garlands of grace (and don't we all need an extra measure of grace this time of year) and sprinkle liberally of God's love to be the light that illuminates the season. Once we have successfully done that we might find that the commercial and secular demands of this season will stand out and look as tacky as a singing animatronic Santa Clause on a Hallmark Movie set.

May your Christmas be merry and bright but let the true meaning of the season never veer from the beautiful elegance of celebrating Christ's birth.

Blessings, Pastor Rus.

MINISTRY TEAM

PASTOR RUSSEL T. YOAK,
SENIOR PASTOR
RUSYOAK@GMAIL.COM,
419-989-1575

GAYE SHIRA
LAY MINISTRY OF VISITATION
GSHIRAI@YAHOO.COM
419-545-2277

PAUL MARTIN
MINISTRY OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC
FLCSHELBY@GMAIL.COM
419-289-6361

HEATHER MURRAY
DIRECTOR OF ABC CENTER
ABCLEARNINGSHELBY
@GMAIL.COM
419-347-9246

BRIAN CRUM
TREASURER
BRIANCRUMCPA.COM
419-543-1819

SARAH MARTIN
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
MRS.SARAHMARTIN@GMAIL.COM,
419-571-6796

LOUISE HUNTER
FOOD PANTRY DIRECTOR
WEZIJM@NEO.RR.COM
419-295-3019

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

FINANCE – Brian Crum, Treasurer

While we are just closing November as of the time this Enlightener is being completed, I wouldn't expect anything out of the ordinary on the financial side. Based on what I have seen so far, I would say that we will probably have small losses from operations for both the Church and ABC Center for the period. We did receive a \$52,000 check from the IRS for the amended 2020 quarterly payroll tax return to claim the Employee Retention Credit. We hope to see checks for the three quarters from 2021 sometime in 2025.

The youth group is going very well. In November we had a lesson by Pastor at the Well coffee shop, did our Angel Tree shopping trip, helped setup for the Thanksgiving meals, and had an awesome lesson that Cassie put together at the Church. December is shaping up to be a blast with a trip to Columbus Zoo lights, a Christmas lesson, and then a Christmas party overnight. Cassie has spearheaded planning for Winter which involves a lot of great activities, leading with a trip to Columbus for a Christian music concert. We have had very good attendance this year with the kids bringing a lot of friends. We have also gained three regulars from our bus stop ministry.

Speaking of the bus stop ministry, that is also going very well. As stated, many of them now feel comfortable enough to join us for our youth group and other Church activities. We have received a Thrivent grant to purchase hygiene products for them, and we will be shortly putting together some additional Christmas gift baskets for them to get on their last day of school. They were extremely appreciative of the hats, gloves, and scarves that were donated as well. I'm having a blast working with these kids, albeit it certainly opens my eyes as to the rough time many of our neighborhood kids have getting through life. We are always in need of snacks if anyone wants to throw in their cart at the grocery store a box of little Debbie snacks, individually wrapped chips, granola bars, pop tarts, fruit snacks, etc. I am going to brainstorm some ways that we can further help these kids and hopefully integrate them with our activities with Pastor Rus in the youth group leaders in the near future. I will keep you all posted!

Thank you so much for all of your support!

Sincerely,
Brian

FOOD PANTRY – Louise Hunter, Food Pantry Director

The Food Pantry would appreciate the congregation taking stars off of the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and providing the listed items. After you bring in your items, please put the star back on the tree for someone else to use.

Thank you so very much for your donations this year. We appreciated you all!!

Louise Hunter

ABC LEARNING CENTER – Heather Murray, ABC Director

As we come into this busy holiday season we need to remember the reason for the season, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We teach the children this meaning of the season. The ABC learning center will be having a Christmas program on Friday December 20 at 6 pm. The children will be singing a few songs and then we will have cookies with our special visitor. If anyone wants to come to see our children perform you are welcome to. The children are looking forward to all the Christmas

projects we will be doing this month. From all of the children and staff here at ABC Learning Center we want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Thank you,
Heather Murray

RUBY’S PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the Wise Men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desire with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thought, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

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

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

OUR SYMPATHY TO

- The family of Ruby Bonecutter
- The family of Carole P. Jess
- The family of Ronald Norris
- The family of Gerald K. Sisinger



CRACKERS

A big thank you to everyone that donated crackers. As always, we meant and exceeded our goal of 125 boxes. All boxes of crackers over 125 were donated to the Food Pantry.

Shelby Helpline Ministries

THANKSGIVING MEAL

THANKSGIVING WEEK-END SCRIPTURE WAS MATHEW 25:31-46.

THE SHEEP ARE BLESSED BY THE FATHER "FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD."

"Thank you for being a congregation of God's Sheep!" Through your donations, time and prayers we were able to feed 200 people on Thanksgiving Day through carry-out with another 120 meals being served in the Social Hall. We had 57 people before, though and after helping with the meal preparation, serving and cleaning up, plus the pie providers. Ten people donated food, along with turkeys from ArcelorMittal. Many community helpers as well as church members were involved in this special ministry.

A special thank you to Thrivent Financial for donations to this ministry.

Gaye Shira

A special thank you to everyone that contributed and worked at the funeral dinners through 2024. You are greatly appreciated!!

Barb Burky & Naomi Amstutz

EVENTS

December 16th - Meet Me on Monday at Legends. Please bring a wrapped Christmas ornament.

December 18th - Church Breakfast in the Social Hall.

December 24th - Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm

January 5th, 2025- Christmas Pageant at 10:00am

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

SHEPHERD MINISTRY

Beginning January 1st, the church office will be overseeing the Shepherd Ministry program. We are in need of volunteers to keep this important ministry going.

At the end of the year there will be **8** openings. The Shepherd's Ministry mails out cards to our church members for various holidays and events such as condolences, illnesses or "Thinking of you" cards. We send cards to shut-ins and to those in the nursing home as well as to all members of our church. The individual lists will be reviewed and possible change somewhat. Over time, we have lost volunteers and others have taken their list in order to keep the program going.

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.

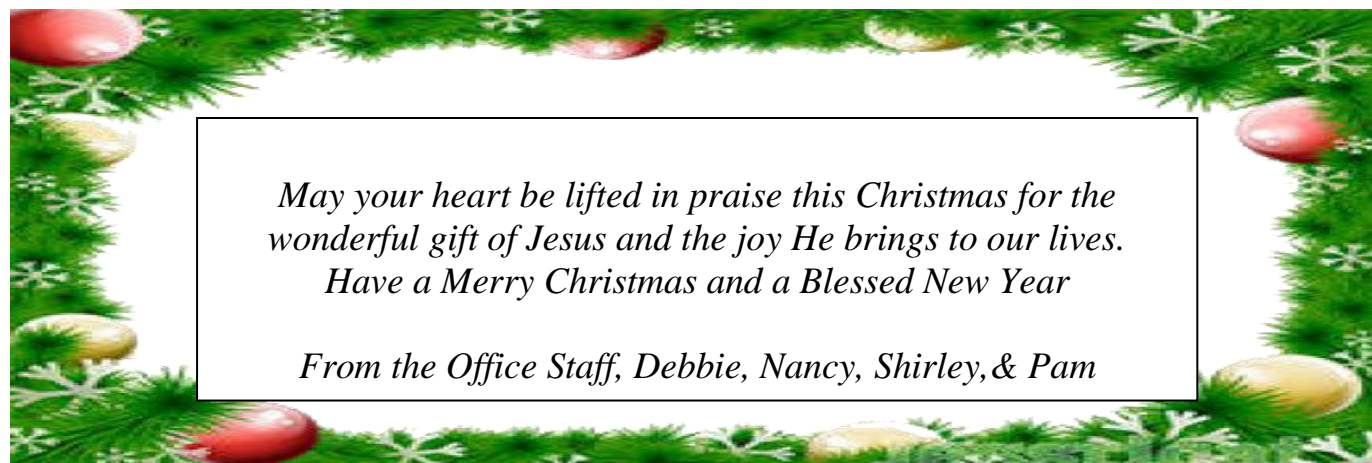
DRIVERS NEEDED

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
Bob Stover - 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
Dorothy Foreman, 551 Bendle Ave, Shelby	419-612-1696
John Hancock, 31 Sherwood, Shelby	419-543-0392
Bob 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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec 2nd	Mason Egner Jacob Gearheart	Dec 17th	Tamara Armintrout
Dec 5th	Janet Shellhouse	Dec 18th	Ferron Pena
Dec 6th	Bradley Davies Shirley Beach Julianne Geer	Dec 19th	Ronald Spath Dalton Wood III Adrienne Erwin
Dec 8th	Emma Erwin	Dec 21st	Cara Pena
Dec 11th	Lisa Korbas Aubrey Reith	Dec 24th	Suzanne Parr
Dec 12th	Fred Beeching	Dec 26th	Kelly Huskey
Dec 13th	Nancy Tischer	Dec 28th	Kimberly Burky
Dec 15th	Charles Bonecutter Katie Sammons	Dec 28th	Becky Loveless
Dec 16th	Jeri Geer Mark White	Dec 30th	Carolyn Nichols Michelle Montgomery Debra Shick

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dec 16th – Michael & Carolyn Metzger
 Dec 17th-- John & Carol Bryson
 Dec 21st – James & Louise Hunter
 Dec 23rd – Glenn & Evelyn Westfall
 Dec 28th – Robert & Carole Jess
 Dec 30th – Bruce & Sherry Hebble
 Dec 31st – Scott & Cori Kreger
 Jordan & Oreste Reed



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS – NOVEMBER 2024

GREETERS	ASSISTING MINISTER	LECTORS
Dec. 1 - Pam Blankenhorn/Mary Lee Barr Dec. 8 - Cathy Dodge	Dec. 1 - Shirley Huskey Dec. 8 - Kriste Yoak	Dec. 8 - Scott Harvey Dec. 15 - Kevin Calver
Dec. 15 - Bobbie Clevenger	Dec. 15 - Pam Copper	Dec. 22 - Renee Nastasi
Dec. 22 - Sue Schiffer	Dec. 22 - Nancy Crum	Dec. 24 - Pam Blankenhorn
Dec. 24 - Sue Vogel	Dec. 24 - Gaye Shira	Dec. 29 - Kari Case, Rebekah Case
Dec. 29 - Carol McLaughin	Dec. 29 - NO ASSISTANT*	
		ALTAR FLOWERS
RECEIPTS	ACOLYTES	Dec. 1- Walt & Charlotte Butler
Dec. 1- Mary Lee Barr	Dec. 1- Abby Yoak	Dec. 8 - OPEN
Dec. 8 - Mark McKown	Dec. 8 - Jenna Cianflone	Dec. 15- Susie Clark
Dec. 15 - Dana Pennell	Dec. 15- Kaylee Dabney	Dec. 22- Sue & Al Vogel
Dec. 22 - Greg Eyster	Dec. 22- Ethan Beck	Dec. 24-
Dec. 24 - Helen Eckenrode	Dec. 24- Lillian Beck	Dec. 29-
Dec. 29 - Darin Zinn	Dec. 29- Paysen Sensmeier	
		-
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	ALTAR GUILD	
Dec. 1- Shirley Huskey, Pam Blankenhorn, Kari Case	November/December	
Dec. 8 - Kriste Yoak Katie Yoak, Hannah Yoak	Sandy Cornet	
Dec. 15- Pam Copper, Sue Vogel, Renee Nastasi	Hazel Bebow	
Dec. 22- Nancy Crum, Sandy Cornett, Ethan Beck	OPEN	
Dec. 24- Gaye Shira, Charlotte Butler, Pat Saltzgaber		
Dec. 29- NO COMMUNION*		

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 Table Talk 8:45 – 9:30am, rm 6 Youth Group TBA FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY Worship 10 am</p>	<p>2 Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>3 Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>4 Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>5 Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>6 Church office open 9-12</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Table Talk 8:45- 9:30am, rm 6 Youth Group TBA</p>	<p>9 Church Office open 9-12 FINANCE COMMITTEE ABC COMMITTEE</p>	<p>10 Church Office open 9-12 COUNCIL MEETING 7:00</p>	<p>11 Church Office open 9-12 Quilting 9:00am Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00</p>	<p>12 Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>13 Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Table Talk 8:45- 9:30am, rm 6 Worship 10 am Youth Group TBA</p>	<p>16 Church Office open 9-12 MEET ME ON MONDAY – NOON at Legends Bring a wrapped ornament</p>	<p>17 Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>18 Church Office Open 9-12 Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00</p>	<p>19 Church Office Open 9-12</p>	<p>20 Church Office open 9-12 ABC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 6:00PM</p>	<p>21 CHURCH BREAKFAST 8:00 – 10:00am Social Hall</p>
<p>22 Table Talk 8:45-9:30am, rm 6 Worship 10am Youth Group TBA</p>	<p>23 Church Office CLOSED</p>	<p>24 Church Office CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE Service 7:00pm</p>	<p>25 Church Office CLOSED CHRISTMAS</p>	<p>26 Church Office CLOSED</p>	<p>27 Church Office CLOSED</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Table Talk 8:45- 9:30am, rm 6 Worship 10 am Youth Group TBA Service of Lessons & Carols 10:00am</p>	<p>30 Church Office CLOSED</p>	<p>31 Church Office CLOSED NEW YEARS EVE</p>	<p>JANUARY 1ST, 2025 NEW YEARS DAY Church Office CLOSED</p>	<p>SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 2005 Christmas Pageant at 10:00am</p>		

THANKSGIVING DAY AT FIRST LUTHERAN

