



JAN 2025

THE ENLIGHTENER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Feeding our Soul
"Grace and Peace to you all from Christ our Lord,

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

Grace and Peace to you all from Christ our Lord,

Newsletter article: "On some level a New Year, is just a number on a calendar that we have arbitrarily assigned to January 1. But on a deeper level, it is representative of opportunity. Each new year is a reminder to each of us that what has been is not necessarily what must be. We always have the opportunity to start over at anything we are undertaking any day of the year but the celebration of New Year's Day reminds us to make the most of it. For some of us, that means nothing more complicated than starting a new diet or exercise program, but some of us are facing more drastic changes like unwelcome health challenges, new financial challenges, or even the loss of a loved one. All of these things mean the beginning of a new thing, even if it isn't a thing we would choose for ourselves.

But God is the God of the old and the new. As much as God has been with us every day in the past, when we arrive in tomorrow we do so knowing that God is already there. God already has new strength, hope, guidance, and strength set aside for us. Trusting God to lead us through tomorrow is essential to actually facing tomorrow with confidence.

So, as you face the New Year with all of its promises...and challenging unknowns...do so with the certainty that God is with you in all that you do.

Blessings,

Pastor Rus.

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

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

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

FINANCE – Brian Crum, Treasurer

Happy New Year Everyone!

I am still finishing the Church's financials for November, but it appears that offering has ticked up a little over the last 6 weeks, so I am hopeful that we will have just a small loss on the Church side. The ABC Center had a net income of about \$3,000 for November, which is pretty close to what it needs to be financially viable for the year. So that is promising!

Youth group stayed busy in December. Last weekend we had a Christmas Party overnight, which saw about 10 kids, the majority of whom were guests or new participants. We also had Pastor do a lesson during the month went to the movie theater to watch "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," which was a fabulous Christian film that gave the kids a lot to think about. January will be very busy for youth group with a highlight being the Christian concert on OSU campus the last Saturday of the month. Cassie and Cece put together a schedule for winter and spring, and I am really excited to spend the time with the kids.

We also have had a lot of fun with the bus stop ministry in the last couple months. It is interesting to see the interactions with the different age groups. The elementary aged kids are now spending time in our makeshift living room in the morning while waiting for the bus. In the afternoon those kids generally just grab a snack and run. The real kicker is the middle and high school students. I have about 10 of them that, even though the bus doesn't drop them off by the building, make their way over anyway, and instead of grabbing a snack, they have a tendency to hang out. Four of them are actually now attending youth group events and the Saturday morning breakfast. I am really happy to spend that time with them. We put together small Christmas presents for the kids as well, which was greatly appreciated. We received a grant for hygiene products from Thrivent and will be distributing those in January. We are always in needs of breakfast and afternoon snacks if anyone is interested. Feel free to bring snacks to the office or you can put a few dollars in an offering envelope and make a note to me, and I am happy to purchase things for you. I really appreciate all of your support with everything we are doing!

Sincerely

Brian

FOOD PANTRY – Louise Hunter, Food Pantry Director

Donations for the Food Pantry for January
CEREAL

ABC LEARNING CENTER – Heather Murray, ABC Director

Happy New Year! Every new year is a new year of possibilities to shine for Jesus. As we leave 2024 behind us, we look to 2025 and what we will accomplish this year. We do not have a lot planned for January. This month's theme "Winter Wonders" with the bible focus of "The Beatitudes". The children will be learning all about different winter animals as well as winter weather. I just want to thank our staff who are always being flexible and is sticking with us. We do have openings so if you know someone that needs care have them call us.

Thank you,

CHURCH OFFICE – Debbie Crum

COMING IN MARCH.....A Church Directory Committee was formed during the fall. The members of the committee are Paul Martin, Pam Copper, Walt Butler and Debbie Crum. The committee has enlisted Universal Church Directories of Mansfield to design and print the directories.

Universal Church Directories will be at the church on March 21st, 22nd, 24th, and 25th to take photos. The hours for Friday, Monday and Tuesday will be 2:00 to 8:30. Saturday hours will be 10:00 to 4:00. Non-members may also have their photo taken. **So, mark your calendars!**

More information will be published in the February Enlightener and also in the February Bulletins. Including information on signing up for your photo sitting.

It is our hope that every member will have their photo taken for our church directory.

SHEPHERD MINISTRY

Beginning January 1st, the church office will be overseeing the Shepherd Ministry program.

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.

I am very happy to announce, we now have enough volunteers to keep the Shepherd Ministry going. Those that will be assisting in this program will receive a letter with a updated list.

A special THANK YOU to Gaye Shira for helping the Business Office Volunteers to update the Shepherd list and to contact volunteers. You are very much appreciated!

CHURCH HISTORIAN – Dan Crum

As 2024 comes to a close, and we look forward to an exciting New Year of 2025, I wanted to share a couple of pictures with all of you. This year marks 65 years since the rebuilding of our church. When the planning began several years prior to completion, the target was to have the new sanctuary done for Easter in 1959 and have confirmation in the church. It was close, but it took a couple more months before it was actually done. That did not stop our congregation from celebrating in April of that year.

As I was going through pictures, I found two pictures of the sanctuary where the walls were still cement block, and people were sitting on chairs and benches. There's a third picture taken a few months later where the sanctuary had its new pews, and the walls were finished. There is also a photo of the church social hall lined with those old heavy tables, and hundreds of our members enjoying a luncheon celebrating the new church. The question is, did this meet fire code?

One has to wonder what happened to those glorious days of our Church. Realistically, the world has changed, and it would be almost impossible to get back to a church like we knew it 65 years ago, but wouldn't it be great if we could! Photos on page 8.

Happy New Year!

PASTOR RUS' MONTHLY PRAYER

Prayer: "Gracious God, as the calendar turns and we enter the year 2025, we gather before you, your people in the town of Shelby, Ohio. We give thanks for the blessings of the past year – the friendships forged, the community supported, the kindnesses shared. We acknowledge the challenges we faced, the losses we mourned, and the ways we fell short of your love.

In this new year, Lord, grant us wisdom and courage. Guide our hands in the work of your kingdom,

whether it be tending our ministries, caring for our neighbors, or sharing the good news of your grace. Bless the young and the old among us, those who are strong and those who are weary.

Bless, O Lord, the ministries of this congregation. May our outreach efforts touch the lives of those in need. May our youth ministry nurture young hearts and minds in faith. May our Bible studies deepen our understanding of your word and strengthen our bonds as a community of believers.

May we find strength in your word, comfort in your presence, and joy in your service. May we be a beacon of hope in this community, reflecting your love to all who cross our path. May this new year be one of growth, healing, and renewed hope for Shelby and all its people.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen."

Blessings,
Rev. Dr. Russel Yoak

PRAYER LIST - *Beginning January 1st, we clear the prayer list and start over. If you have someone you would like to put on the prayer list, please phone the church office.*

January Prayer List

Mike Miller
Dale Metcalfe
Dan Kernell

THANK YOU

December's Christmas Angel program was a big success. First Lutheran was able to give 39 children a wonderful Christmas. A special thank you to Jenny and Gary Shade, Gaye Shira, and Carol McLaughlin for helping me put up the Angel Tree and delivering the bags of gifts to the Shelby Help Line.

A big thank you also to those that participated in the Snowflake Food donations. Our Food Pantry is currently serving up to 50 families. This is an important ministry for our community. We are blessed to have so many people taking part in helping with this ministry.

Chairperson, Charlotte Butler
First Lutheran Representative

Thank you to Thrivent for giving us grants for the Thanksgiving meal, Community breakfasts, Food Pantry, Hygiene products for youth, and the Back to School Carnival.

Thanks to Thrivent grant writers: Pastor Rus, Judy Hoover and John and Nancy Medley.

Thank you to Sav-A-Lot for giving numerous bags of Thanksgiving items to our food pantry.

A special thank you to all of our worship participants... those who assist the pastor on Sunday mornings, lector, usher, serve communion, acolyte, greet, assist in the balcony with sound and video, and so much more! Thank you for your very important ministry at First Lutheran Church! Happy New Year!

Paul Martin

To all of our wonderful vocalists, choir members, team members, instrumentalists, and bell ringers... Thank you for your important ministry at First Lutheran Church! You lift us up and bless us at each and every worship service! Thank you for all you do! Happy New Year!

Paul Martin

Thank you to the anonymous person that made a donation toward the church kitchen. Your thoughtfulness in acknowledging the needs of the kitchen is very much appreciated.

Gaye Shira

EVENTS

January 5th - Kids' Holiday Pageant at service

January 20th - Meet Me on Monday there will be a Potluck at the church in room 6. Helen or Carol will contact individuals as we get closer to this day to decide what to bring.

January 18th - Church Breakfast in the Social Hall

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Altar Guild is in need of volunteers.

Responsibilities are as follows: communion preparations, parament changes, filling oil candles, and altar cleaning. Make sure supplies are filled: wine, grape juice, wafers, cups, and also baptismal napkins, etc. The altar candles are to be checked each week to be sure that they have enough oil for the weekend services. The Altar area and platform are to be swept and dusted as needed.

If you might be interested in joining this important ministry, please contact Paul Martin or the Church office.

Paul Martin
Minister of Worship & Music

VISITATION LIST ...Gaye Shira

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 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
 Renee' Simpson, 5690 Racoon Valley Rd, Alexandria 43001
 Jeannie Sisinger, 634 McBride Rd, Mansfield 44905
 Jim & Shirley Stine, 18 W Maxwell, Shelby

419-989-1322
 740-924-2061
 419-589-0170
 419-631-9761

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

GREETERS	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS
Jan 5 - Sandy Cornett	Jan 5 - Gaye Shira	Jan 5 - Gaye Shira
Jan 12 - Cathy Dodge	Jan 12 - Shirley Huskey	Jan 12 - Shirley Huskey
Jan 19 - Bobbie Clevenger	Jan 19 - Pam Copper	Jan 19 - Sue Vogel
Jan 26 - Gaye Shira/Charlotte Butler	Jan 26 - Nancy Crum	Jan 26 - Pam Blankenhorn

ACOLYTES	RECEIPTS	ALTAR GUILD
Jan 5 - Abby Yoak	Jan 5 - Sarah Martin	Jan/Feb 2025
Jan 12 - Jenna Ciaflone	Jan 12 - Bill Parr	Barb Burky & OPEN POSITION
Jan 19 - Kaylee Dabney	Jan 19 - Carol McLaughlin	
Jan 26 - Ethan Beck	Jan 26 - Kelly Crum	

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Jan 5 - Gaye Shira, Charlotte Butler, Pat Saltzgaber
 Jan 12 - Shirley Huskey, Mark & Peggy McKown
 Jan 19 - Pam Copper, Sue Vogel, Carol McLaughlin
 Jan 26 - Nancy Crum, Pam Blankenhorn, Kari Case

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

January 14th - Douglas and Laura Lewis
 January 24th - Scot and Carrie Sifferlin
 January 31st - Daniel and Deborah Crum

January 2nd - Brian Stover
 January 4th - Shirley Huskey, Findley Pena, Kathy Snyder
 January 6th - Marjorie Baird
 January 11th - Richard Furr
 January 13th - Judy Hoover, Patrick Shira
 January 14th - Glenn Westfall
 January 15th - Peggy McKown, Linda Striker
 January 16th - Shirley Stine
 January 17th - Richard Simpson
 January 18th - Kay Green
 January 19th - Robert Burky, David Keinath
 January 21st - Patricia Schaub, Denise Thompson
 January 24th - Catherine Dodge, Jay Huss
 January 25th - Patricia Ross, Joseph Tyler, Kristie Yoak
 January 26th - Wyatt Love, D.
 January 28th - Jacquelyne Davies
 January 29th - Ryan Beeching
 January 31st - Allison Uplinger, Russel Yoak



JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Church Office open 9-12 Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	2 Church Office open 9-12	3 Church office open 9-12	4
5 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY Table Talk 8:45- 9:30am, rm 6 Youth Group TBA CHRISTMAS PROGRAM	6 Church Office open 9-12	7 Church Office open 9-12	8 Church Office open 9-12 Quilting 9:00am Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	9 Church Office open 9-12	10 Church Office open 9-12	11
12 Table Talk 8:45- 9:30am, rm 6 Worship 10:00am Youth Group TBA	15 Church Office open 9-12 FINANCE COMMITTEE ABC COMMITTEE	14 Church Office open 9-12 COUNCIL MEETING 7:00	15 Church Office Open 9-12 Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	16 Church Office Open 9-12	17 Church Office open 9-12 ABC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 6:00PM	18 CHURCH BREAKFAST 8:00 – 10:00am Social Hall
19 Table Talk 8:45-9:30am, rm 6 Worship 10am Youth Group TBA BUDGET MEETING	20 Church Office open 9-12 MEET ME ON MONDAY – Potluck at church Room 6	21 Church Office open 9-12	22 Church Office open 9-12	23 Church Office open 9-12	24 Church Office open 9-12	25
26 Table Talk 8:45- 9:30am, rm 6 Worship 10 am Youth Group TBA ANNUAL MEETING	27 Church Office open 9-12	28 Church Office open 9-12	29 Church Office open 9-12	30 Church Office open 9-12	31 Church Office open 9-12	

