

FEB 2025

# THE ENLIGHTENER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Feeding our Soul

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Grace and Peace to you from Christ our Lord,

The words, "polar vortex" are now rather firmly in the common vernacular of the American press. For those of you who have, somehow, missed this phrase it refers to the swirling winds that keep the extremely cold air of the poles up at the poles...not wandering down to make it snow in Florida. Over the last few years, those vortexes have not done their job very well, and we have suffered some icy blasts of frigid weather. In fact, we have just begun to find our way out of some of that misplaced polar air. No one much likes the weather when it is ten below, and with a wind chill that dips well below the negative twenty mark we all huddle in our homes and hope we don't need to go outside for anything. My wife recently remarked to me that we should put some ice melt on the front sidewalk at my house because it had lots of ice on it... I laughed about that because I had already put two bags out...and nothing was melting.

Unfortunately for me, I have animals that live outdoors...chickens to be precise. For the record, between the under layer of down, and the top layer of water-resistant, air-trapping feathers chickens effectively are wearing down parkas all winter long... but even with their exceptional resistance to cold, twenty below wind chills present a real health risk for them. So, I put on my best ski jacket, gloves, hat, scarf, extra socks...the works...and ventured out into the cold to do what I could for them. I built a windbreak in their run using bales of straw. I added an old dog house to the run for a little shelter when they were out of the coop. I made sure the heater in their water supply was working. I added black oil sunflower seeds to their feed (the extra fat and protein helps them stay warm). I even added a heat lamp to their coop (something I usually am deeply opposed to for fire prevention reasons). In short, I did everything I could to make their environment safe. Of course, the rest is up to them. Despite what you may think, chickens are actually pretty smart as animals go. They have some pretty good instincts and usually make the right choices for survival. And, my girls did all the right things and everyone seems healthy.

Of course, they could have gone and stood in the snow and gotten frostbite on their feet and combs. They could have wandered around in the wind and frozen solid. They could have pecked at the power cord for the heater and burned down the coop....And I know people who have had birds do exactly those things. My gals made good choices and so, I will have eggs and they won't be chickensicles.

In many ways, this is how God has to deal with us. He tells us what to do, and not to do. He creates institutions like the church and creates instructions like the Bible. He even put on human flesh and trudged out into the cold to do the hard work himself, even to the point of dying on a cross. The world is a

cold, dangerous place and God has done everything to keep us safe short of taking us out of it. Even with all of that, the outcome is still up to us. Why do some people stand out in the freezing cold, ignoring the shelter and safety of God's grace? Maybe there are just birds that won't allow themselves to be helped. Maybe the flock hasn't done a good job including all the stragglers and gathering them in. Maybe some folks have had encounters with the "pecking order" and found themselves feeling driven away. We need to do what we can to make sure that all of God's effort to provide all we need does not go to waste on account of our lack of attention. So, what can you do to make sure the lost and wandering don't wind up out in the cold?

Blessings, Pastor Rus.

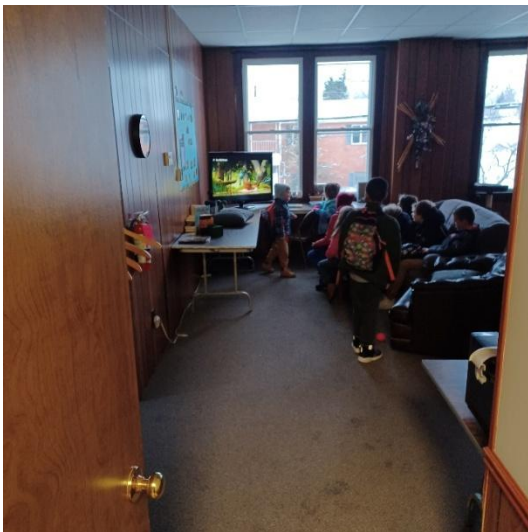
### **WORSHIP AND MUSIC, Paul Martin**

Are you thinking to yourself, "I love this church and really wish I could find a way to become more involved?" Do you have special skills that could benefit the life and ministry of the Church? Could you become active in the vital ministry of Worship? Well, talk to Paul Martin! There are many ways to become involved in our weekly Worship - both actively and behind the scenes. There are opportunities in music, audio/visual, Worship assisting, and administrative areas. Prayerfully consider how you could become involved to further the ministries of First Lutheran Church!

### **FINANCE – Brian Crum, Treasurer**

*A financial report was not available at the time of this mailing.*

### **BUS KIDS' MINISTRY – Brian Crum**



#### **Our Bus Kid Ministry is thriving!**

A cold morning, all the walkers came inside to enjoy a snack and “Bluey” cartoon series.

Thanks to Pastor Rus for giving up the couch in his office along with his coffee table.

Thanks to everyone that donates treats for these students. Not only are the kids grateful but so are their parents.

### **YOUTH GROUP, Brian Crum & Cassie Gates**

#### **Schedule for Youth Group Activities through April 2025**

February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6:00pm – God activities & snack
- 9<sup>th</sup> - 11:00am – Snow Trails & late lunch
- 16<sup>th</sup> - 11:00am - Assemble soup/winter care packages for shut-ins

- 23<sup>rd</sup> – 4:00pm - Deliver soup/care packages

MARCH

- 2<sup>ND</sup> – 11:00AM – Plan Spaghetti dinner fundraiser...**WE NEED SOME IDEAS!**
- 9<sup>TH</sup> –TBD – Stained glass making class
- 16<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm – St. Patrick’s Day party! **WEAR YOUR GREEN!!**
- 23<sup>RD</sup> – 11:00am – Stump the Pastor
- 30<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm – Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

APRIL

- 6<sup>TH</sup> – 11:00am – Assemble Easter Gifts
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 11:00am – Deliver Easter Gifts to Shut-ins
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Happy Easter!! NO YOUTH GROUP
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Leave for Kalahari

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

Donations for the Food Pantry for February  
**Cereal and paper towels**

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

Thank you to everyone that supported our book fair. We were able to earn \$250 in free books. The children will love them! February is the month of love so we will be learning all about God’s love as well as different kinds of love such as family and friends. Also, we will be having Valentine’s Day parties in the classrooms on Valentine’s Day. The children will have so much fun. We are still looking to expand our center, so we have openings for staff and children so if you know of anyone send them our way.

Thank you,

Heather Murray, ABC Director

**CHURCH DIRECTORY... PHOTO SESSIONS COMING IN MARCH!!**

Universal Church Directories will be at our church on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> to photo members of our church and non-members. If you have members of your family that isn’t part of our church but would like a family photo.... **Now is the time!**

March 21st, 23<sup>rd</sup>, & 24<sup>th</sup> ...hours are 2:00pm to 8:30pm

March 22<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday)...hours are 10:00am to 4:00pm

Photos will be taken in the church social hall

Anyone is welcome! Back drops are welcome. A photo with your hobby or your pet. Attached is a flyer giving you information and how to make an appointment.

If you are out of town/state. Find your local Universal Church Directories. They will let you know what churches are currently taking photos. You may go there for your photo, and they will send it to us.

If you aren't comfortable with scheduling online, please call the church office and we will be happy to assist you in making an appointment. Our office hours are 9:00 to Noon, Monday through Friday. Phone 419-347-7675.

**Prayer for February, Pastor Russ**

Gracious God, as the crisp air of February descends upon us, bringing with it the beauty of snow-covered landscapes, we turn to you with hearts full of gratitude. We thank you for the blessings of the past month and for the hope that fills our hearts as we embark on this new journey.

We pray for our church family, that we may be a community of love, support, and encouragement to one another, reflecting the love of Christ in all our interactions. As we prepare to celebrate St. Valentine's Day, may we remember the enduring power of love – a love that is patient, kind, and endures all things.

We pray for our community that we may be a source of warmth and support during these cold winter months. May we be good neighbors, reaching out to those in need, offering assistance during snowstorms, and sharing the warmth of human connection.

Bless our volunteers, our staff, and all who serve in this ministry. Give them wisdom, guidance, and the strength to carry out your work. May their words be a source of comfort and inspiration to all who hear them.

As we face the challenges and uncertainties that lie ahead, grant us courage, faith, and the assurance of your abiding presence. May your love be our constant companion, and your grace our guiding light throughout this snowy season and beyond. Amen.

Blessings, Rev. Dr. Russel Yoak  
Senior Pastor

**Prayer List**

Greg Beeching	Dorothy foreman	Emanuel Martin	Diane Stiefel
Julie Beeching	John Hancock	Joanne Martin	Jim Stine
Linda Bloom	Cheryl Hoch	Dave Mellick	Bob Stover
Donna Bunting	Phil Jennings	Glenna McCoy	Brian VanVlerah
Annalisha Corwin	Kim James	Barb Peebles	Vrendi Will
Barb Davies	Cohen Lewis	August Schreiber	Please pray for the families of
Jackie Davies	Becky Loveless	Joe sparks	Delmar (George) Sturt's.
Meg Dean	Earl Lynch, Sr	Myrna Spath	

**Condolences and prayers to...**

- The family of James Donnan. Father of Kelly Crum.
- The family of Mildred House. Grandmother of Jen Erickson.
- The family of Donald Hartge. Husband of Joyce Hartge.

**EVENTS**

January 15th - Church Breakfast in the Social Hall

## MEET ME ON MONDAY

February 11<sup>th</sup> – (Tuesday) Uncle Dudley's, 21 East Maple Street, Willard  
March 17<sup>th</sup> – Willard Varsity Club Sports Bar & Grille, 3598 Bullhead, Willard  
April 15<sup>th</sup> – Lyn-Way Restaurant, 1320 Cleveland Avenue, Ashland  
May 19<sup>th</sup> – Gigi's Tacos and Margaritas, 1111 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Mansfield

## **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

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The church office is in need of a volunteer housekeeper. Those of us that volunteer to keep the office up and running are now so busy that the housekeeping part of this job is getting difficult to keep up with.

This is about a two-hour job once a week. Our needs are gathering up the trash, running the sweeper, mopping some areas, wiping down the two bathrooms and sanitizing the tabletops. Especially at this time of year, the bus kids bring in a lot of salt, snow and mud.

Anyone that might be interested in helping out, please call the church office.

Debbie Crum  
Office Manager Volunteer

## **VISITATION LIST ...Gaye Shira**

MARTHA CLARK – CRESTWOOD CARE CENTER, 225 W. Main Street, Shelby 44875  
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  
MIRIAM LAMBERT - O'NEILL HEALTHCARE -4800 Clague Rd, Apt 116 North Olmstead 44070  
PATRICIA BAIRD, JOANNA RIGG, LOU ELLEN SAMPSEL, JOE SPARKS - ONTARIO ESTATES-2010 Walker Lake Rd, Ontario 44906

<b>Bob Adams</b> , 39 Mickey Rd, Shelby	419-347-8868
<b>Marge Baird</b> , 29 Riverview Dr, Shelby	419-347-2293
<b>Jane Beeching</b> , 47 Marvin Ave, Shelby	419-347-5255
<b>Dorothy Foreman</b> , 551 Bendle Ave, Shelby	419-612-1696
<b>John Hancock</b> , 31 Sherwood, Shelby	419-543-0392
<b>Patricia Knapp</b> , 25 Riverview, Shelby	419-564-5227
<b>Pat Rank</b> , 4 Park Village, Shelby	419-347-4211
<b>August Schreiber</b> , 3391 St Rt 96E, Shelby	419-989-1322
<b>Renee' Simpson</b> , 5690 Racoon Valley Rd, Alexandria 43001	740-924-2061
<b>Jeannie Sisinger</b> , 634 McBride Rd, Mansfield 44905	419-589-0170
<b>Jim &amp; Shirley Stine</b> , 18 W Maxwell, Shelby	419-631-9761
<b>Bob Stover</b> , 16 Riverview Drive, Shelby	419-347-5035

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

GREETERS	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS
Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Pam Blankenhorn/Kari Case	Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Gaye Shira	Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Gaye Shira
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> – Boy Scouts	Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> - Shirley Huskey	Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> – Scot Harvey
Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> - Sue Schiffer	Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> - Pam Coper	Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> - Renee Nastasi
Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Sue Vogel	Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Kristie Yoak	Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Kari Case
ACOLYTES	RECEIPTS	ALTAR GUILD
Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Lillian Beck	Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Cassie Gates	<b>January/February</b>
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> – Paysen Sensmeier	Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> – Pam Blankenhorn	Barb Burky
Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> – Abby Yoak	Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> – Mark McKown	<b>OPEN POSITION</b>
Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Kaylee Dabney	Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Dana Pennell	
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	ALTAR FLOWERS	
Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> -Gaye Shira, Chalotte Butler, Cathy Dodge	Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> - <b>OPEN</b>	
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> – Shirley Huskey, Pat Saltzgaber, Kari Case	Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> - <b>OPEN</b>	
Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> – Pam Copper, Sandy Cornett, Ethan Beck	Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> – Fred Lee and Brad B.	
Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Kristie Yoak, Katie Yoak, Hannah Yoak	Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Peggy McKown	

## Birthdays

February 1<sup>st</sup> - Deidra Paulo  
 February 4<sup>th</sup> - Larry Ault, Jenna Cianflone  
 February 6<sup>th</sup> - Paula Lewis  
 February 7<sup>th</sup> - Martin Hull  
 February 8<sup>th</sup> - Lillian Heydinger  
 February 9<sup>th</sup> - Jenny Leemaster  
 February 10<sup>th</sup> - Garrett Shealy  
 February 11<sup>th</sup> - Eric Ericsson  
 February 12<sup>th</sup> - Madelyn Dabney  
 February 13<sup>th</sup> - Kari Furr  
 February 15<sup>th</sup> - James Nadolsky, Faline Rowland, August Schreiber  
 February 17<sup>th</sup> - Kevin Calver, John Hancock  
 February 18<sup>th</sup> - Scott Beck, Evelyn Westfall  
 February 19<sup>th</sup> - Veronica O’Keefe  
 February 20<sup>th</sup> - Carol McLaughlin  
 February 21<sup>st</sup> - Coen Beeching  
 February 23<sup>rd</sup> - Scott Donnenwirth  
 February 24<sup>th</sup> - Hannah Allen, Mary Barr, Kenneth Papay  
 February 25<sup>th</sup> - Steven Tischer  
 February 26<sup>th</sup> - Cori Kreger, Gregory Vogel  
 February 28<sup>th</sup> - Louise Hunter, Hannah Sexton, Amy Yantis  
 February 29<sup>th</sup> - Karen Reith

## Anniversaries

February 11<sup>th</sup> –  
 Earl and Geraldine Lynch  
  
 February 12<sup>th</sup> –  
 Jacque and Mia Hoover  
  
 February 14<sup>th</sup> –  
 Robert and Cara Pena  
  
 February 23<sup>rd</sup> –  
 Robert and Connie Brinson  
  
 February 25<sup>th</sup> –  
 Scott and Yvonne Donnenwirth  
  
 February 26<sup>th</sup> –  
 Robert and Cynthia Philbrick  
  
 February 27<sup>th</sup> - Terry and Roberta Boice

# FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
<p>2</p> <p><b>FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY</b> Table Talk 8:45- 9:30am, rm 6</p> <p><b>BOY SCOUT SUNDAY</b></p> <p><b>CONFIRMATION CLASS</b> 5:00PM</p> <p><b>Youth Group 6:00pm</b> God activities &amp; snack</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p> <p>Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p><b>ENDOWMENT SUNDAY</b> Table Talk 8:45- 9:30am, rm 6 Worship 10:00am</p> <p><b>Youth Group 11:00am</b> Snow Trails &amp; late lunch</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p> <p><b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><b>ABC COMMITTEE</b> 9:30am</p> <p><b>ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE</b> NOON @ LEGIONS</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p> <p><b>COUNCIL MEETING</b> 7:00</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Church Office Open 9-12</p> <p><b>Quilting 9:00am</b></p> <p>Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Church Office Open 9-12</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p> <p><b>HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY</b></p>	<p>15</p> <p><b>CHURCH BREAKFAST</b> 8:00 – 10:00am Social Hall</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Table Talk 8:45- 9:30am, rm 6 Worship 10 am</p> <p><b>Youth Group 11:00am</b> Assemble soup/winter care packages for shut- ins</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p> <p><b>MEET ME ON MONDAY--- NOON</b> <b>Uncle Dudley's,</b> <b>21 East Maple</b> <b>Street, Willard</b></p>	<p>19</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p> <p>Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Table Talk 8:45- 9:30am, rm 6 Worship 10:00am</p> <p><b>Youth Group 4:00pm</b> Deliver Soup/care packages</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p> <p>Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Church Office open 9-12</p>	

*“Pray, and let God worry” Martin Luther*