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MARCH 2026

THE ENLIGHTENER

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Feeding our Soul

Grace and peace to you all from Christ our Lord,

Routine is a funny thing. Some people can't live without the gentle rhythm of a regular routine, whereas others struggle with the boredom of a too regimented life. I myself fell into the "creature of habit" camp. I like my schedule. I like reliability and predictable. I like it when I go to my favorite diner and my waitress already knows what my order will be and just shows up at my table with a cup of decaf coffee. Despite all of that, I am not opposed to novel things, far from it. I love a wild departure from the day to day. Just because I want my regular order for breakfast at my local diner as often as I sit in one of their booths, does not mean I might not try the Korean corn-dog place near the hospital in Columbus. By the way it's called Mochinut and you should get the potato corn-dog which is basically a giant corn-dog studded with bits of french fries and deep fried. Terrible for the cholesterol but delicious. I would love to say that all my experiences with Korean food has been this rewarding but let's just say I've been to Korean restaurants that left me longing for my seat at my favorite diner...and deeply aware of the fact that every vegetable does not taste better when turned into kimchee. But, I was always happy for the opportunity to try something new. Routine without novelty is drudgery. Novelty without routine is chaos. Life is found in the balance. You eat your vegetables, watch your calories, mind the amount of fats and sodium in your diet...and every so often eat something decadently deep fried. As we walk through the season of Lent we all take time from the spiritual routine of our lives to try something novel.

So, giving something up for Lent ...or taking up a new spiritual discipline...hardly sounds equivalent to eating a deep fried Frankenstein's creation. But, to our soul's it is exactly what it is. Our human nature and the routine of our lives may not much appreciate the departure from our regular order.

We certainly would not like to live on a steady diet of whatever it is that we are indulging in during Lent. But to our soul it is like the thrill of seeing a new place, learning a new skill, eating a new delicious cuisine. Afterward you are permanently changed by the new experience. And no, most of us could not make a lifestyle of it. But for the season of Lent it grows our experience with God in a new and novel way that expands our faith and deepens our connection to the divine. There certainly are monks and nuns out there that make this sort of thing their regular diet... just like there are travel writers and professional food reviewers that make their lives out of the novelty of the extreme. For the rest of us there is balance.

Take some time and enjoy the novelty of the Lenten discipline as a source of balance to our day to day religious routines. It is not an interruption in our lives. It is not a challenging, self inflicted suffering to make us feel properly guilty as Jesus goes to the cross. It is an opportunity for our souls to spend forty days out of the 365 days of the year expanding its horizon, learning something new, treading a new path, and most importantly....experiencing God's presence in our life in a new way. So, enjoy that new dish whether it be delicious or challenge your palate, you will not be the same person after the meal.

Blessings, Pastor Rus

“STEWARDING THE WHOLE OF LIFE”

As the snow is melting and winter is almost gone, we are already looking forward to our Spring Financial Stewardship Drive. This upcoming drive will be a time for us to prayerfully renew our commitment to the mission of First Lutheran. In the meantime, we want to make faithful giving as seamless as possible. You can give through Vanco Services, which offers secure online giving Opportunities. You may use the QR Code that you find in your bulletin and Enlightener to access this. For those who prefer a "set it and forget it" approach, Simply Giving remains our excellent automatic giving program.

The Stewardship Committee

Judy Hoover, Pam Blankenhorn, Barb Burky, John Medley, Pastor Rus Yoak

SEWING MINISTRY

Our Sewing Ministry is looking for people to help with making quilts for the Lutheran World Relief. This ministry is more important than ever with all the disasters that have happened in the previous year around the world and at home. You are not required to be a member of a Lutheran church to participate in this ministry. If you can sew...WE WANT, YOU!

WE MEET ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 9:00 IN THE BASEMENT AT FIRST LUTHERAN.

FUNERAL DINNER MINISTRY

We are currently looking for someone to oversee our Funeral Dinners. If you might be interested, please phone the church office and we will direct you to the person that can give you information on what this position involves.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for High School Seniors and College students are now available from February through April 30, 2026. Please stop in the church office to pick up your application.

EASTER FLOWERS

Easter flower orders are being accepted up to March 9th. Order forms are located at the church and at the church office.



Wednesday night Lenten Supper & Study

6:00pm Supper

6:45pm Hymn Sing

7:00pm Lenten Study: “Missionary Journeys of Paul”

Mar 4th – Baked Spaghetti, salad, bread, furnished by Shirley Huskey

Mar 11th – Potato soup, hotdogs, cole slaw, furnished by Pam Blankenhorn

Mar 18th – Shepherd’s Pie, furnished by Sandy Cornett

Mar 25th – Tomato soup, toasted cheese, furnished by Judy Hoover

DATES TO REMEMBER

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY – NO BIBLE STUDY THROUGH LENT

Date to restart will be announced

Bible Study meets at 4:00pm each Thursday afternoon!

MEET ME ON MONDAY – March 16th at the Vault

CHURCH BREAKFAST – March 21st 8:00am to 10:00am, in the Social Hall

COMMUNITY MEAL – March 24th - 4:30 to 6:00pm in the Social Hall.

Meal: Creamy Chicken Noodle Bake, mashed potatoes & gravy, peas & carrots rolls, and cake & ice Cream

FOOD PANTRY – Louise Hunter, Food Pantry Director

The Food Pantry is requesting cake mixes with a can of frosting.

ABC LEARNNG CENTER - Heather Murray, Director

As winter draws to a close, we look towards the warmth of spring. We will be learning about Spring. The first week of March is Dr. Seuss week so we will be doing fun activities such as wacky Wednesday and cat in the hat day. The faith theme for the month is all about seeking Jesus. St' Patrick's day is coming too so we will do fun activities such as having all green food for lunch. We are always looking for staff and children. So, if you know someone, give us a call.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES - through May 2026

THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. IF SO, YOU WILL BE CONTACTED BY YOUR LEADERS

Winter / Spring Schedule 2026

March

March 1 – 6pm, Lessons with Pastor Rus
March 7 – 6pm, Lock In (Tentatively)
March 15 – 6pm, Stump the Pastor
March 22 – 6pm, Youth Group Activities
March 29 – 6pm, Lessons with Pastor Rus

April

April 5 - No Youth Group! HAPPY EASTER
April 12 – 6pm, Youth Group activities
April 17 & 19 - Youth Group Retreat
April 26 - 6pm, Youth Group activities

May

May 3 – 6pm, Lessons with Pastor Rus
May 10 - No Youth Group! Celebrate your Mom!!
May 17 – 11am, Summer BBQ

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH, Pastor Rus

“Gracious God,

In this season of Lent, we pause. Amidst the busy rhythms of our lives in Shelby, we seek the quiet of Your presence. As the days grow longer and we walk the path toward the Cross, remind us that we never walk alone.

We ask for clarity of heart. Help us to set aside the distractions and the "clutter" that keep us from You. May this month be a time of intentional reflection, where we trade our shadows for Your light and our worries for Your peace.

We pray for our First Lutheran community. Strengthen our bonds of fellowship. Whether we are gathering for mid-week Lenten services, serving our neighbors, or sharing a quiet word of encouragement, let Your love be the thread that weaves us together.

We ask that You guide us as we reflect on the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to renew our commitment to acts of mercy and kindness within our own neighborhood and return to You with humble, grateful hearts.

Lord, as we look forward to the ground thawing and the first hints of new life emerging, prepare our spirits for the joy of the Resurrection. But for now, help us to be present in the "wilderness," learning what it means to truly trust in Your grace.

Amen."

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE MONTH

Our prayer list will be refreshed at the end of February. If you would like any of the current names to remain on the list, please let the church office know. Thank you.

Judy Crosser	Louise Hunter	August Schreiber
Meg Dean	Mary Knapp	Joe Sparks
Jim Fellows	Cohen Lewis	Myrna Spath
Dorothy Foreman	Paula Lewis	Bob Stover
John Hancock	Becky Loveless	Andy Thompson
Scott Hancock	Earl Lynch Sr	
Sally Hays	Joanne Martin	

CONDOLENCES

... to the family of Arthur Seaman. February 22, 2026.

... to the family of Howard Michael Gordon. February 20, 2026

... to the family of Patricia A. Rank. January 23, 2026



VISITATION LIST

DAYSPRING ASSISTED LIVING-3220 Olivesburg Rd, Mansfield 44903

- **Candy Potts**

ONTARIO ESTATES-2010 Walker Lake Rd, Ontario 44906

- **Patricia Baird (Rm 217)**
- **Joann Rigg (Rm 331)**
- **LouEllen Sampsel (Rm 214)**
- **Joe Sparks (Rm 319)**
- **Joann Martin (Rm 221)**

PRIMROSE- 1301 Millsboro Rd, Mansfield 44905

- **DiAnna White (Rm 221)**

THE COURT OF EDEN VISTA – 289 East Saint Joseph Street, Apt 51, Green Bay, WI 54301

- **Miriam Lambert**

CRESTWOOD CARE CENTER, 225 West Main Street, Shelby, Ohio 44875

- **John Hancock (Rm 11)**

THE WATERFORD AT MANSFIELD, 1296 S Trimble Road, Mansfield OH 44906

- **Denise Donnan (147)**

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
Becky Loveless , 541 Bendle Ave, Shelby	419-545-0537
Patricia Knapp , 25 Riverview, Shelby	419-564-5227
August Schreiber , 3391 St Rt 96E, Shelby	419-989-1322
Jeanne Sisinger , 634 McBride Rd, Mansfield 44905	419-589-0170
Shirley Stine , 18 W Maxwell, Shelby	419-631-9761

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS – March 2026

<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ASSISTING MINISTERS</u>
Mar 1 – Kari Case	Mar 1 – Paysen Sensmeier	Mar 1 – Gaye Shira
Mar 8 - Carol McLaughlin	Mar 8 – Jenna Cianflone	Mar 8 – Nancy Crum
Mar 15 – Bobbie Clevenger	Mar 15 – Kaylee Dabney	Mar 15 – Pam Copper
Mar 22 – Pam Blankenhorn	Mar 22 – Abby Yoak	Mar 22 – Kristie Yoak
Mar 29 – Sue Vogel	Mar 29 – Paysen Sensmeier	Mar 29- Shirley Huskey
<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u>
Mar 1 – Kevin Calver	Mar 1 – Sarah Martin	Mar 1 - OPEN
Mar 8 – Scott Harvey	Mar 8 – Bill Parr	Mar 8 - OPEN
Mar15 – Mary Hooks	Mar 15 – Carol McLaughlin	Mar 15 – Pam Copper
Mar 22 – Kari Case	Mar 22 – Kelly Crum	Mar 22 – Susie Clark
Mar 29 – Shirley Huskey	Mar 29 – Cassie Gates	Mar 29 – Palm Sunday
<u>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	
Mar 1 – Gaye Shira, charlotte Butler, Deb Shick	Jan/Feb – Mark & Peggy McKown	
Mar 8 – Nancy Crum, Sue Schiffer, Pat Saltzgaber	Mar/Apr – Pam Blankenhorn, Pat Saltzgaber	
Mar 15 – Pam Copper, Mary Hooks, Carol McLaughlin	May/June – Connie Brinson, Teresa Baird	
Mar 22 – Kristie Yoak, Pam Blankenhorn, Kari	July/Aug – Sandy Cornett, Hazel Bebow	
Mar 29 – Shirley Hskey, Mark & Peggy McKown	Sept/Oct – Gaye Shira, Charlotte Butler	
	Nov/Dec – Barb Burky, Pam Copper	



- Mar 1 – Robert Brinson
- Mar 2 – Brian Glenwright
- Mar 3 – Martin Boor
- Mar 6 – E Steven Rhodes
- Mar 18 – Daniel Crum
- Mar 18 – Harold Stiefel
- Mar 20 – Laura Calver
- Mar 22 – Robert Philbrick
- Mar 22 – Robert Stover
- Mar 23 – Connie Brinson
- Mar 26 – Lillian Beck
- Mar 28 – Debra Hull
- Mar 28 – Keegan Sensmeier
- Mar 30 – Naomi Amstutz



- Mar 17 – Ronald & Myrna Spath
- Mar 19 – Justin & Kristina Dabney
- Mar 23 – Aaron & Cassandra Gates
- Mar 23 – Kevin & Keely Wage
- Mar 27 – Rodney & Vicky Barre
- Mar 30 – Brian & Michele Glenwright

THANK YOU

To Mark McKown and Bill Parr...

Thank you for all you do. Build, fix, clean up and more for our church! Your help is a blessing. I'm not saying you're saints, but you deserve a r Recommendation for sainthood...or at least a free coffee. Your energy and support mean the world. You both are wonderful blessings from God!!

SIGN UP FOR TIME & TALENT

We have a variety of ministries at First Lutheran and can always use more volunteers. If you might be interested in volunteering your time, use your phone camera and photo the QR code below. It will take you to the online form. It's easy, quick and secure!

SECOND QR CODE

SIGN UP FOR AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL OFFERINGS. FIRST QR CODE



Scan This To Give a One Time Offering or to set up a Weekly/Every Other Week/ or Monthly Automatic Offering

Scan Us!



Scan This To Fill Out Your Own Time and Talent Sheet To Volunteer For Ministries Here At First Lutheran



**PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 29TH**

Gaye Shira

MEET YOUR
2026 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

PAM BLANKENHORN, PRESIDENT
KELLY CRUM, VICE PRESIDENT
CAROL MCLAUGHLIN, SECRETARY
LINDA BLOOMFIELD
CECE BRAXTON
KEVIN CALVER
PAM COPPER
JUDY HOOVER
DAVE KEINATH
CASSIE LYNCH
SARAH MARTIN
MARY LEE MEDLEY
BILL PARR
PAT SALTZGABER

EASTER SERVICE 2025



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
HEATHER MURRAY, DIRECTOR
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:
WEZNIJIM@NEO.RR.COM,
419-295-3019

CHURCH OFFICE 419-347-7675

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

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Table Talk <u>8:45am</u> Worship - <u>10:00am</u> Youth Group 6:00PM	2 Church Office Open 9-Noon	3 Church Office <u>Open 9-Noon</u> Stewardship <u>11:00am</u> Worship 7:00pm	4 Church Office <u>Open 9-Noon</u> Food Pantry <u>9-11:30am</u> Choir - 5:00pm Bells - 8:00pm	5 Church Office Open 9-Noon	6 Church Office Open 9-Noon	7 Youth Group 6:00pm Lock-in (tentatively)
8 Table Talk <u>8:45am</u> Worship - <u>10:00am</u> Confirmation Class following Church Service Office Conf. Rm.	9 Church Office Open 9-Noon ABC Finance 10:00am	10 Church Office Open 9-Noon Church Finance 11:00am Council Meeting 7:00pm	11 Church Office <u>Open 9-Noon</u> Food Pantry <u>9-11:30am</u> Choir - 5:00pm Bells - <u>8:00pm</u> Sewing Ministry at 9:00am	12 Church Office Open 9-Noon	13 Church Office Open 9-Noon	14 Worship Team 10:00am
15 Table Talk 8:45am Worship - 10:00am Youth Group 6:00pm	16 Church Office Open 9-Noon ABC Finance 10:00am Meet Me on Monday - VAULT IN SHELBY	17 Church Office Open 9-Noon ST PATRICK'S DAY	18 Church Office <u>Open 9-Noon</u> Food Pantry <u>9-11:30am</u> Choir - 5:00pm Bells - 8:00pm	19 Church Office Open 9-Noon	20 Church Office Open 9-Noon FIRST DAY OF SPRING	21 Community Breakfast 8:00 - 10:00am
22 Table Talk <u>8:45am</u> Worship - <u>10:00am</u> Youth Group <u>6:00pm</u> Confirmation Class following Church Service Office Conf. Rm.	23 Church Office Open 9-Noon ENLIGHTENER ARTICLES DUE	24 Church Office Open 9-Noon Community Meal 4:30 to 6:00pm	25 Church Office <u>Open 9-Noon</u> Food Pantry <u>9-11:30am</u> Choir - 5:00pm Bells - 8:00pm	26 Church Office Open 9-Noon	27 Church Office Open 9-Noon	28
29 PALM SUNDAY Table Talk <u>8:45am</u> Worship - <u>10:00am</u> Youth Group 6:00pm	30	31				

