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MAY 2026

THE ENLIGHTENER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Feeding our Soul

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"Grace and Peace to you from Christ our Lord,

If I wished you a Happy Shavuot this May, you might just respond by saying "gesundheit." But, in Hebrew, "Shavuot" means "weeks", and it refers to the seven weeks that come before the Festival of First Fruits. This festival, which was of deep importance to Israel, happens the day after seven weeks have passed after Passover. In Greek, the word for "Fiftieth" is "πεντηκοστή", or pentēkostē, and so the Greek-speaking Jews in ancient Israel started calling the holiday Pentecost instead of Shavuot. On this day, Jews from all over the world would come to Jerusalem to offer at the temple whatever crops or produce had grown first in the new farming season. We would bring peas, asparagus, or spinach because not a lot of things are harvestable this early in the season in Ohio.

In the record of the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection, this festival took on a new meaning. In the second chapter of Acts, our author, Luke, writes, "When the day of Pentecost came," the disciples were all together in one place. Suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them." One might wonder why it would be that God would use this holiday of Shavuot or Pentecost as the jumping-off point for the new Christian Church? Maybe it was the fact that "there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven", but the fact that it was convenient to preach to the assembled masses seems too simple of an explanation.

The holiday of Shavuot is associated with the Giving of the Law on Mount Sinai as Moses walked down the mountain with the tablets of the law 50 days after the Passover. This Giving of the Law on Shavuot was seen as the "first harvested fruits" of God's merciful saving act of bringing his people out from the tyranny of Egypt in order to form them into the nation of Israel. In like fashion, the birth of the new Church that happened on Pentecost was the "first harvested fruits" of God's merciful saving act of bringing us out of the tyranny of death through Jesus' resurrection in order to form us into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Each year, we wear red on Pentecost Sunday and welcome our newly graduated class of confirmation students. Frequently, we also try to schedule baptisms on this day as well. We do this to remember the actions of the Holy Spirit (the Holy Spirit's color is red) and to recognize that God continues to raise up new life and fresh starts for His Kingdom. Even if you are not a

confirmation student or a candidate for baptism, Pentecost Sunday is an opportunity for us all to remember that the Holy Spirit lives within us, providing us with new life that comes from the connection we have in Easter to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

So, this Pentecost Sunday on May 24th, remember to wear your red, but also offer your thanks and praise to God for the Birthday of His new Church and that first harvest of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. May we continue to speak His word with the same courage and passion that the disciples went out into the streets with on that first Christian Pentecost day, enabled by the Holy Spirit that lives in us still.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Rus"

DATES TO REMEMBER

**ALTAR GUILD REFRESHER MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CHURCH SERVICE**

**ASHLAND UNIVERSITY CHOIR TO VISIT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONCERT: Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 7:00pm**

We will be preparing a meal for the students and directors. Anyone interested in assisting with the meal preparation, or contributing financially to the dinner, please talk to Paul Martin.

***MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SUMMER LUNCHES
June 8 – 12, 2026. More information to come.***



NOTE: SUMMER HOURS FOR THE CHURCH OFFICE

**BEGINNING JUNE 1ST, THE OFFICE WILL BE GOING TO FOUR DAYS,
MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, 9:00AM TO NOON**

(CLOSED ON FRIDAYS)



BIBLE STUDY – Every Thursday at 4:00pm in the Church Parlor

CHURCH BREAKFAST –Saturday, May 16th in the Social Hall

MEET ME ON MONDAY – Monday, May 18th at Noon– Black Dog Tavern, 900 Comfort Plaza Drive., Bellville next to Der Dutchman.

COMMUNITY MEAL – Tuesday, May 26th in the Social Hall
Meal: Sloppy Joe or Shredded Chicken sandwich, Marconi Salad, Chips. Angel Food Cake with fruit.

FOOD PANTRY – Louise Hunter, Food Pantry Director
Tuna and hamburger helper



ABC LEARNNG CENTER - Heather Murray, Director

As the weather is getting better the children are able to get outside to play more. This month in our curriculum we are talking about spring and our marvelous moms. For our faith based part we are talking about telling the truth, doing good things, and encouraging one another. On Friday May 15th we will be having our preschool graduation at 6 pm. The parents love to see their children in their caps and gowns. Come on out and celebrate with the children.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES - through May 2026

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

SPRING SCHEDULE 2026

MAY

May 3 – 6pm, Lessons with Pastor Rus

May 10 – No Youth Group. Celebrate with your mom!!

May 17 – 11am, Summer BBQ

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH, Pastor Rus

"Gracious and Loving God, as the warmth of May settles over Shelby and the blossoms finally emerge in full force, we pause to offer our deepest thanks for the season of renewal you have placed before us. We see your handiwork in the softening ground and the vibrant greens of our community, reminding us that you are always at work making things new.

We lift our hearts in gratitude for the mothers and mother-figures among us this month. We thank you for the hands that have held us, the voices that have encouraged us, and the selfless love that reflects your own care for all creation. Bless every woman who nurtures and leads, and hold close those for whom Mother's Day carries a weight of longing or loss.

Lord, we look forward with great anticipation to the celebration of Pentecost and our confirmation services. As we remember the rushing wind and the tongues of fire that emboldened the early church, we ask that you pour out that same Spirit upon our young people. As they stand before this congregation to affirm their faith, ignite their hearts with a passion for your Word and a desire to serve. May they always know that they are chosen, called, and equipped by your grace to be lights in this world.

Teach us all to be a people of steady faith and open hands, ready to follow where your Spirit leads. Whether we are tending to our gardens, celebrating our students, or simply enjoying the longer days of sunlight, may our lives reflect the joy of the Resurrection in all that we do. Keep us united in spirit and lead us forward in hope, ever mindful of your grace that sustains us. Amen."

CONDOLENCE to the family of Ronald Spath.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE MONTH

Troy Barker	Nell Harris	Paula Lewis	August Schreiber
Greg Beeching	Sally Hays	Becky Loveless	Elsie Shepherd
Julie Beeching	Charles Hill	Earl Lynch, Sr.	Joe Sparks
Ruth Bolles	Louise Hunter	Joanne Martin	Myrna Spath
Meg Dean	Phil Jennings	Judy Ream	Bob Stover
Jim Fellows	Mary Knapp	Tom Roberts	Andy Thompson
Dorothy Foreman	Marvin Lash	Emerson Saltzgaber	Gloria Turner
John Hancock	Cohen Lewis	David Scull	Diane Vencil

VISITATION LIST

CRESTWOOD CARE CENTER-225 W Main St, Shelby 44875

- John Hancock (Rm 11)
- Earl Lynch Sr
- Sue Egner

DAYSRING 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 Road, Mansfield 44905

- DiAnna White (Rm 221)

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

- Miriam Lambert

The Waterford – 1296 S Trimble Rd, Mansfield OH 44906

- Denise Donnan (Rm 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 Avenue, 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
Gloria Turner, 20 Riverview Dr, Shelby	304-927-2347

FLC WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS – MAY 2026

<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ASSISTING MINISTERS</u>
May 3 - Cathy Dodge	May 3 - Paysen Sensmeier	May 3 - Nancy Crum
May 10 - Carol McLaughlin	May 10 - Abby Yoak	May 10 - Gaye Shira
May 17 - Bobby Clevenger	May 17 - Kaylee Dabney	May 17 - Pam Copper
May 24 - Pam Blankenhorn	May 24 - Paysen Sensmeier	May 24- Kristie Yoak
May 31 - Sue Vogel	May 31- Abby Yoak	May 31 - Shirley Huskey

<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u>
May 3 - Kevin Calver	May 3 - Kevin Calver	May 3 - OPEN
May 10 - Gaye Sira	May 10 -Pam Blankenhorn	May 10 - Susie Clark
May 17 - Kari Case	May 17 - Mary Le Medley	May 17 - Fred Lee and Brad Berberick
May 24 - Pam Blankenhorn	May 24 - Cece James	May 24 - Vicky Barre
May 31 - Shriley Huskey	May 31 - Sarah Martin	May 31 - OPEN

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

May 3 - Nancy Crum, Pam Blankenhorn, Kari Case
May 10 - Gaye Shira, Charlotte Butler, Deb Shick
May 17 - Pam Copper, Mark & Peggy McKown
May 24 - Kristie Yoak and family
May 31 - Shirley Huskey, Carol McLaughlin, Pat Saltzgaber

THANK YOU

THE FAMILY OF Ron Spath

Acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.

**Thank you all for the prayers and support. Ron was happy God gave him his wings.
Beware he's out there ready to pull a joke on someone.**

Love you all, Myrna



- May 1 – Anna Dick
- May 3 – Jane Beeching
- May 5 – Jeffrey Schaub
- May 5 – Doris Will
- May 6 – Robert Nichols
- May 8 – Scot Kreger
- May 8 – Rachel Roth
- May 9 – Nanci Keinath
- May 10 – DiAnna White
- May 11 – Michele Karshner
- May 11 – Gwen Myers
- May 11 – Cameron Yantis
- May 12 – Joyce Hartge
- May 12 – Miriam Lambert
- May 15 – Susan Johnson
- May 16 – Lana Van Vlerah
- May 16 - Andrew Thompson
- May 16 – Darin Zinn
- May 18 – Sally Hays
- May 20 – Myrna Spath
- May 22-John Bryson
- May 24 – Lou Ellen Sampsel
- May 29 – Judy Norris
- May 30 – Phyllis Rhodes
- May 31 – Paysen Sensmeier
- May 31 – Addison Shira
- May 31 – Jeanette Strong



- May 5 – Earl & Sue Lynch II
- May 20 – Jay & Bonne Huss
- May 22 – Pastor Rus & Kristin
- May 25 – Robert & Sue Stover
- May 26 – Scott & Melissa Sensmeier
- May 26 – Brian & Kelly Crum

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:

WEZMJIM@NEO.RR.COM,

419-295-3019

CHURCH OFFICE 419-347-7675

Website: FLCshelby.org

[Facebook: First Lutheran Shelby](#)

[YouTube: Pastor Rus Yoak](#)



Again this year, Carol McLaughlin will be sponsoring a Mother's Day Raffle. Proceeds will go to the Food Pantry. Baskets will be located in the church hallway. Carol will be available before and after the services to sell tickets. This has always been a fun event. Thank you all, in advance, for your support!!

MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Church Office Open 9-Noon	2
3 Table Talk 8:45am Worship - 10:00am ALTAR GUILD MEETING IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHURCH SERVICE .	4 Church Office Open 9-noon	5 Church Office Open 9-Noon Stewardship Committee 11am Property Committee 7pm Worship Committee 7pm	6 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30am Choir - 6:00pm Bells -7:00pm	7 Church Office Open 9-Noon Bible Study 4:00pm	8 Church Office Open 9-Noon	9 Worship Team 10:00am
10 Table Talk 8:45am Worship - 10:00am Confirmation Class following Church Service Office Conf. Rm. MOTHER'S DAY	11 Church Office Open 9-Noon ABC Committee 10:00am ABC Finance 2:00pm	12 Church Office Open 9-Noon Church Finance 11am Outreach Committee – after Council ASHLAND UNIVERSITY CHOIR CONCERT 7:00PM	13 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30am Choir - 6:00pm Bells -7:00pm SEWING MINISTRY at 9:00am	14 Church Office Open 9-Noon Bible Study 4:00pm Book of Romans	15 Church Office Open 9-Noon ABC Graduation 6:00pm	16 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 8:00 - 10:00am
17 Table Talk <u>8:45am</u> Worship - <u>10:00am</u> SENIOR DAY/ SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS	18 Church Office Open 9-Noon Meet Me on Monday - BLACK DOG TAVERN 900 COMFORT PLAZA DR BELLVILLE, OH	19 Church Office Open 9-Noon MOBILE FOOD PANTRY 10AM Council Meeting 7pm	20 Church Office <u>Open 9-Noon</u> Food Pantry 9-11:30am Choir - 6:00pm Bells -7:00pm	21 Church Office Open 9-Noon Bible Study 4:00pm Book of Romans	22 Church Office Open 9-Noon	23
24 Table Talk <u>8:45am</u> Worship - <u>10:00am</u> Confirmation Class following Church Service Office Conf. Rm. PENACOST CONFIRMATION	25 Church Office CLOSED	26 Church Office Open 9-Noon COMMUNITY MEAL 4:30 - 6:00pm	27 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30am Choir - 6:00pm Bells -7:00pm	28 Church Office Open 9-Noon Bible Study 4:00pm Book of Romans	29	30/31 May 31 - Memorial Day

