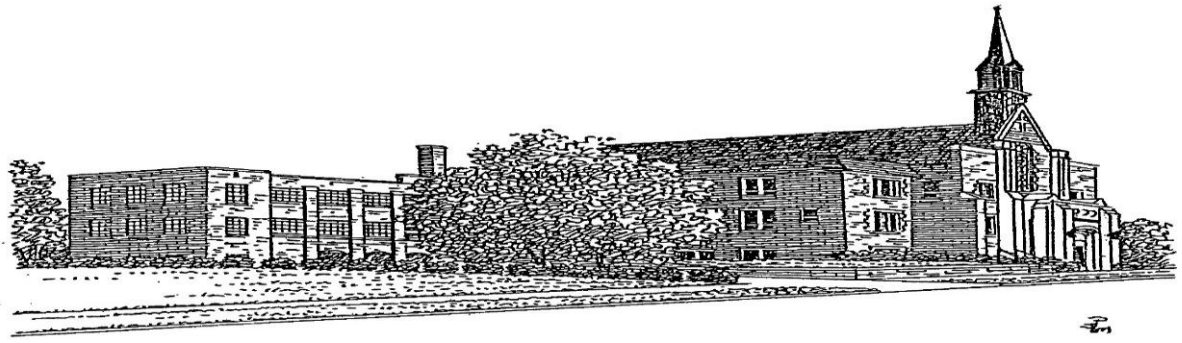





AUGUST 2026

THE ENLIGHTENER

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Feeding our Soul

33 Broadway Street
Shelby, Ohio 44875
Ph 419-347-7675

Email:
firstlutheranshelby@gmail.com

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

There are a lot of confusing and obscure aspects of a traditional liturgical-style worship service. Do you stand, sit, or kneel? Why do we do things in responsive readings, and what is the proper way to take communion? But there is a wealth of richness to it as well. From the ancient and historic elements of worship to the pageantry of robes and ceremonies, the liturgy helps us to understand our relationship to God in a million tiny ways. One of the elements that I love is the seasons of the church and their corresponding traditions. Some are easier than others to grasp hold of. Advent is fairly clearly a time of waiting and joyful anticipation, and Lent is its mirror cousin. Christmas's twelve days remind us to extend the celebration beyond the mere opening of presents. But...one of the seasons of the church does not get enough love: ordinary time.

Ordinary time is the season of green paraments and Sundays with catchy names like "the 13th Sunday after Pentecost". One might be inclined to think that the fact that it is called "Ordinary" implies that it is not special. Actually, it is only called "ordinary" because we use "ordinal numbers" to describe it. Cardinal numbers are things like "one, two, three," and Ordinal numbers are things like "first, second, third". So the Ninth Sunday After Pentecost (July 26th) is Ordinary time, because we use an ordinal number to describe it. Ordinary time is by no means ordinary.

Each year, the annual liturgical cycle walks us through the entire life cycle of Christ. This includes: ADVENT: The darkness of the womb and the promise of Christ's coming into the world. (4 weeks), CHRISTMAS: The birth of Jesus as the light of Christ coming into the world, including his infancy and childhood. (12 days), EPIPHANY: The recognition of Christ's presence in the world both within and beyond the Jewish religion, symbolized by the visitation of the Magi and Jesus's baptism by John. (4-9 weeks), LENT: The temptation to sin that Jesus overcomes in the wilderness, and his subsequent three years of public ministry. (6 weeks), HOLY WEEK: The betrayal, arrest, crucifixion, and death of Jesus, and his descent into hell. (1 week), EASTER: The resurrected Jesus appears to the disciples in the flesh, proclaiming God's triumph over death. (7 weeks), ASCENSION: The resurrected body of Jesus departs from earth, leaving behind the promise of the Holy Spirit. (1 week), PENTECOST: The Holy Spirit shows up and moves through the disciples, driving them out from their hiding places and into the world to embody Christ and preach the Gospel.

If we think of the liturgical cycle as little more than a memorial re-telling of the historical Jesus event, then it would seem as though our story ends here. But in the Christian theological tradition, the completion of Jesus' earthly ministry is not the end of Christ's story. The Church is understood to be the Body of Christ birthed from the broken and resurrected body of Jesus through the activity of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Ordinary Time is there to remind us that the ministry of Jesus continues... in us. This season is about us deepening our understanding of our own calling and commission. It is a time to reflect less on what Christ has done for us, and more about what Christ is doing through us. There is nothing ordinary about this. Ordinary Time is a gift from the Church that helps us to grow in our faith and to become more like Christ. The reason the color for the season is green is to remind us of growth. It is a time to deepen our relationship with God, to learn more about our faith, and to put Christ's teachings into practice. Ordinary Time is not ordinary in the sense of being boring or unimportant, but is a time of growth, renewal, and mission.

By participating fully in Ordinary Time, we can grow in holiness and become better witnesses of Christ's love in the world. We can develop a deeper relationship with God, learn more about our faith, and serve others with love and generosity. Ordinary Time is a time of grace and opportunity, a time to grow in our love for God and for others.

God Bless, Pastor Rus"

FINANCE – Brian Crum

Hi Everyone,

I hope that you are all enjoying summer! I have certainly been making the most of it. I wanted to update everyone on the Church's financial position. The summer slump definitely starting to show. In June, the Church expenses exceeded offering by \$2,400. Year to date, we are only down \$3,000, so we are actually doing better than some previous years. The property fund has taken a very big hit this year as we have had a number of large repairs. That fund's expenses have exceeded collections by about \$11,000. We have a number of other large repair projects upcoming, so we will have to prioritize and then start fundraising for those.

The ABC Center has also had its number of struggles this year. Operations exceeded revenues in June by \$2,900 in June, and that organization is down \$21,900 for the year. We are making some adjustments in trying to stay closer to ratios to get that operation back in the black. If anyone would like to volunteer some time to come and read to the kids, I am sure that would help relieve the pressure on the staff members. Overall though, we still have large cash balances on both the Church and ABC side of things, so we are not in an immediate crisis situation.

The youth group is still on its summer break. We have some get togethers in the works for the rest of the summer. Then we will start our fall programming in September.

The Bus Stop Ministry has also been fairly quiet this summer. We do have kids stop by to say hello throughout the week. One of our regulars, Cohen, has started volunteering at Church meals, so stop out and say hello to him if you see him. We are always in need of snacks or donations for snacks, especially as school begins in about 3 weeks. As much of a struggle as this program has been, I would like to figure out how to help these kids more. It is amazing what they have to live with, and they continue to persevere. I often hear of them talking about drug use with their parents and friends, all kinds of theft issues, and many topics that are not repeatable. I came across a new situation last month though, that I am not sure how to deal with. Two of our regulars, Tiffany and Jocelyn, came in and told me that their friend Quinn committed suicide the day before. They told me they had gone to the pool with her earlier that week. I didn't even know what to say. So please continue to pray for these kids and if you see any of them feel free to say hello and chat with them for a few minutes. They could use some good interactions.

Thank you all for your support and friendship!

Sincerely, Brian

ABC LEARNNG CENTER - Heather Murray, Director

Summer has been busy for us. The children have been having water days and just having fun. The school age children have been going places. Only a few weeks before they go back to school. We have some spaces for children. If you know someone that needs care let them know.
Heather, ABC Director

CHURCH OFFICE - Debbie Crum

The Church Office is working with Dan Crum, our Historian, to further organize our Archives Room. We found a lot of extra past directories and other booklets that we are offering to the church community. They are in the hall at the church. Please help yourself!
Debbie

DATES TO REMEMBER

THE CHOSEN - A new Bible Study

August 25th - The Chosen Video Series and Bible Study will follow the community meal

BIBLE STUDY - Every Thursday at 4:00pm in the Church Parlor with Walt Butler

CHURCH BREAKFAST - Saturday, August 15th in the Social Hall. 8:00am to 10:00am

MEET ME ON MONDAY - Monday, August 17th at Weber's

FOOD PANTRY - Louise Hunter, Food Pantry Director

Food Pantry is requesting Tuna helper

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY - 3rd Tuesday of each month

First Lutheran Parking Lot 10:00am

August 18, 2026

September 15, 2026

COMMUNITY MEAL - Tuesday, August 25th in the Social Hall. 4:30 - 6:00pm

Ground beef gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, salad, roll and brownies/blondies



YOU ARE INVITED
ICE CREAM SOCIAL
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
AUGUST 23, 2026

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE

SPECIAL VOCALIST DURING WORSHIP SERVICE, KC ARMSTRONG

Volunteers will be needed for setting up, serving, cleaning up and tearing down. Sign up at church.

August 30 – Jazz Worship Service – with Kelly Knowlton singing, saxophonists Tom Reed and Eric Syder, Steve Berry on drums, and Paul and McCray Martin

September - Choirs will start again in September! If you have been considering getting involved musically, talk to Paul Martin about this possibility!

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH, Pastor Rus

Gracious and Loving God,

As we open the pages of this August newsletter, we cannot help but notice how quickly the weeks of summer are passing us by. The days are just a little shorter now, the evening shadows a bit longer, and the weather shifts from blazing hot to hinting at cool temperatures. We give you thanks, Lord, for the abundance of these summer months—for the warmth of the sun, the growth in the fields surrounding our community, and the precious times of rest and renewal with family and friends.

Yet, as August arrives, it brings its own unique set of seasonal concerns and transitions. For many in our church family, this is a time of frantic preparation. We pray for our children, youth, and teachers as they prepare to return to school. Ease their anxieties, fill them with excitement for learning, and keep them safe in the months ahead.

We also lift up our local farmers and all those whose livelihoods depend on the land. As the harvest season approaches, we pray for favorable weather, strength for the long days of labor, and safety in the fields and on our roads.

Change can be unsettling, Lord, whether it is the shifting of the seasons, the maintenance of our historic buildings, or the transitions we face in our personal lives. But we take comfort in knowing that while the seasons change, your steadfast love never fails. You are our rock and our constant guide.

Help us, as the congregation of First Lutheran, to continue looking outward—serving our neighbors, supporting our families, and being a beacon of your grace right here in Shelby. Gather us close in the weeks ahead, that we might finish this summer season well, rooted in faith and bound together in your love.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE MONTH

Troy Barker	Terry Foreman	Cohen Lewis	Becky Sparks
Greg Beeching	John Hancock	Paula Lewis	Joe Sparks
Julie Beeching	Sally Hays	Earl Lynch, Sr.	Myrna Spath
Ruth Bolles	Sandy Hild	Joanne Martin	Diane Stiefel
Steve Butler	Charles Hill	Judy Ream	Bob Stover
Stacey Dahn	Louise Hunter	Tom Roberts	Andy Thompson
Meg Dean	Phil Jennings	Emerson Saltzgaber	Gloria Turner
Jim Fellows	Mary Knapp	David Scull	Diane Vencil
Dorothy Foreman	Justin Lalumiere	August Schreiber	Walter Will
	Marvin Lash	Elsie Shepherd	Todd Wilson

If any names should be removed from the prayer list, please let the church office know.

CONDOLENCES... to the family of Miriam E. Lambert. July 15, 2026

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 Waterford – 1296 S Trimble Rd, Mansfield OH 44906

- Denise Donnan (Rm 147)

THE EMBASSY OF WILLARD, 370 E Howard Street, Willard, OH 44890

- Bob Adams

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
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	419-564-7671

FLC WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS – JULY 2026

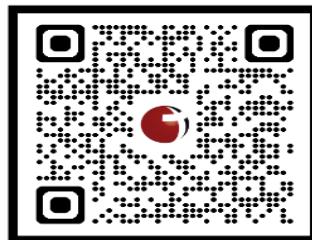
ALTAR FLOWERS – if you would like your altar flowers to be in memory of someone, please contact the church office with that information.

GREETERS	ACOLYTES	ASSISTING MINISTERS
Aug 2 – Susie Clark	Aug 2 – Kaylee Dabney	Aug 2 – Shirley Huskey
Aug 9 – Pam Blankenhorn	Aug 9 – Jenna Cianflone	Aug 9 – Nancy Crum
Aug 16 – Bobbie Clevenger	Aug 16 – Abby Yoak	Aug 16 – Kristie Yoak
Aug 23 – Mary Hooks	Aug 23 – Paysen Sensmeier	Aug 23 – Pam Copper
Aug 30 – Sue Schiffer	Aug 30 – Kaylee Dabney	Aug 30 – Gaye Sira
LECTORS	RECEIPTS	ALTAR FLOWERS
Aug 2 – Shirley Huskey	Aug 2 – Kevin Calver	Aug 2 – Cathy Dodge
Aug 9 – Renee Nastasi	Aug 9 – Pam Blankenhorn	Aug 9 – Phillis Rhodes
Aug 16 – Kevin Calver	Aug 16 – Mary Lee Medley	Aug 16 – Pam Copper
Aug 23 – Pam Blankenhorn	Aug 23 – Cece VonStein	Aug 23 - OPEN
Aug 30 – Gaye Shira	Aug 30 – Sarah Martin	Aug – 30 - OPEN
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS		ALTAR GUILD
Aug 2 – Shirley Huskey, Pam Blankenhorn, Kari Case, Rebekah Case, Sue Vogel		JULY/AUGUST
Aug 9 – Nancy Crum and Family		Sandy Cornett & Hazel Bebow
Aug 16 – Kristie Yoak and Family		
Aug 23 – Pam Copper, Pat Saltzgaber, Linda Bloomfield		
Aug 30 – Gaye Shira, Charlotte Butler, Carol McLaughlin		



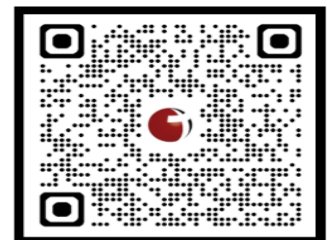
Aug 3 – Amy Beeching
 Aug 6 - Candance Potts
 Aug 7 – Pamela Copper
 Aug 8 – Keely Wade
 Aug 11 – Susan Eyster
 Aug 13 – Rpbert Adams
 Aug 16 – Madelyn Beck
 Aug 17 – William Parr
 Aug 17 – Rebeca Sparks
 Aug 22 – Issiah Beck
 Aug 23 – Deborah Crum
 Aug 23 – Stephanie Newton
 Aug 25 – Dorothy Foreman
 Aug 28 – Landon Sensmeier
 Aug 30 – Ruby Crum
 Aug 30 – Joseph Sparks
 Aug 31 – Bruce Hebble
 Aug 31 – Carol Bryson

Aug 5- Steven & Phyllis Rhodes
 Aug 9 – Nicholas & Katie Lynch
 Aug 14 – James & Kimberly Nadolsky
 Aug 26 – John & Nancy Medley
 Aug 30 – Paul & Sarah Martin



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

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:

WEZSJIM@NEO.RR.COM,

419-295-3019

CHURCH OFFICE 419-347-7675

Website: FLCshelby.org

Facebook: First Lutheran Shelby

YouTube: Pastor Rus Yoak

NOTE: Most committees are suspended for the summer months. If you have any questions, please contact your committee chair for further information.

AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Table Talk 8:45am Worship - 10:00am	3 Church Office Open 9-noon	4 Church Office Open 9-Noon	5 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30am	6 Church Office Open 9-Noon Bible Study 4:00pm	7 Church Office CLOSED	8
9 Table Talk 8:45am Worship - 10:00am	10 Church Office Open 9-Noon	11 Church Office Open 9-Noon	12 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30am	13 Church Office Open 9-Noon Bible Study 4:00pm	14 Church Office CLOSED	15 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 8:00-10:00AM Social Hall
16 Table Talk 8:45am Worship - 10:00am	17 Church Office Open 9-Noon MEET ME ON MONDAY - AT WEBER'S	18 Church Office Open 9-Noon MOBILE FOOD PANTRY 10:00	19 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30am	20 Church Office Open 9-Noon Bible Study 4:00pm	21 Church Office CLOSED	22
23 Table Talk 8:45am Worship - 10:00am ICE CREAM SOCIAL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE	24 Church Office Open 9-Noon	25 Church Office Open 9-Noon COMMUNITY MEAL 4:30- 6:00 THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY FOLLOWING MEAL	26 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30am	27 Church Office Open 9-Noon Bible Study 4:00pm	28 Church Office CLOSED	29
30 Table Talk 8:45am JAZZ WORSHIP SERVICE - 10:00am	31 Church Office Open 9-Noon					