

  
**JULY 2026**

# **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](mailto:firstlutheranshelby@gmail.com)

Our Adult Sunday School Class, what we call "Table Talk" after the book that contains all of Martin Luther's casual teachings, has finished a very, very deep dive into the Book of Acts. We've been at it for a good while, and it seemed like a nice time to try something different. So, we're taking a little side trip into the legends and folktales that surround the lives of the Apostles after the book of Acts. As such, we would love to invite you to join us as we explore something new and interesting. Please keep in mind that I have definitely labeled this information as non-canonical legends and folklore. When St Luke set out to write his books, he said, "I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning; I too decided to write an orderly account for you". This was a task he undertook only after spending many months with the disciples in Jerusalem and Antioch, then many more years accompanying Paul on his missionary journeys. Luke took this task on like a true historian, and the documents he produced (The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts) reflect the thoughtful rigor he put into them.

In sharp contrast, the various legends and tales of the lives of the Apostles are a clear hodgepodge of history and fantasy thrown together haphazardly...it's equal parts ecclesiastical facts and absolutely crazy nonsense. In these stories we find out about Apostles traveling to India....which we have undeniable proof of in the form of the Indian Nasrani Christian Denomination that still speaks the original Aramaic that the Apostles taught them 2,000 years ago...and in these legends we also have talking goats. So, it's a real mixed bag of weirdness.

On the one hand, it just sounded fun to dive into the silliness that is some of these stories after taking such a long and serious look at the history of the 1st century church. On the other hand, there are amazing nuggets of wisdom nestled down in these crazy tales. One such nugget of wisdom had to do with how intently the early church pursued missionary activities. It was not something the church merely did; it was central to their identity...it was "who" they were. In this, it serves the purpose of reminding us that it still is central to who we are. Most of us have never taken a mission trip, certainly not halfway around the world like some of the Apostles did, but that does not mean that we cannot learn from their travels and be inspired to take some risks and do some missionary work in our own backyard. As we move further into 2026 (which is shockingly more than half over) we will continue to think about what it means to be Disciples of Christ, including what sort of evangelism and mission we may take on for ourselves.

God bless,

Pastor Rus

*Join us to celebrate*

100

*years of*

MARY SHAFFER

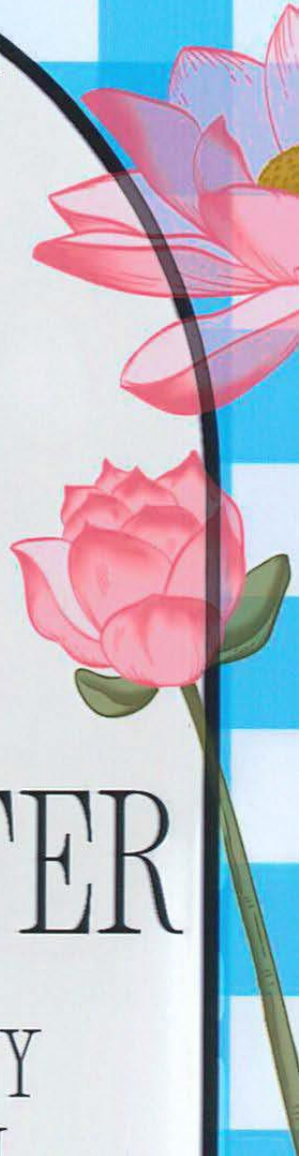
1-4PM | 25TH JULY

FIRST LUTHERAN

CHURCH SOCIAL HALL

33 BROADWAY, SHELBY,  
OHIO 44875

*No gifts, please!*



# DATES TO REMEMBER

## **THE CHOSEN – A new Bible Study**

July 28 and August 25<sup>th</sup> - 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, July 18th in the Social Hall

**MEET ME ON MONDAY** – Monday, July 20th at Noon– Chinatown Restaurant on Ashland Road

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

*Tuna and hamburger helper*

## **MOBILE FOOD PANTRY**



Looking ahead...

**August 23** – Ice Cream Social & special vocalist in worship, KC Armstrong

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

# FIRST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY MEAL!

MAY THIS BE A TIME OF GOOD FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP



*Do for  
Others as  
You would have  
them do For  
You!*

*Luke 6:31*

Suggested prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for this food before us. Bless those who prepared it and those who are sharing it with us. May it nourish our bodies and bring us together in gratitude and love.

In Jesus name, Amen.

UPCOMING MEAL DATES

Always on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month.

July 28

August 25

Freewill Donations are accepted.

**COMMUNITY MEAL** – Tuesday, July 28th in the Social Hall

***Brats & Hot dogs, baked beans, cole slaw, chips and pie***

**NOTE:**

**SUMMER HOURS FOR THE CHURCH OFFICE BEGINNING JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>, THE OFFICE WILL BE GOING TO FOUR DAYS MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY... (CLOSED ON FRIDAYS)**

**9:00am to NOON**

**Thank you to all our summer lunch helpers!**



We were able to serve approximately 750 meals. Donations from Thrivent and First Lutheran Endowment helped make this possible.



**Thank you to all who signed up to present special music this summer. If anyone else is interested, please let me know, Paul**

**ABC LEARNNG CENTER - Heather Murray, Director**

Welcome to summer. We are off to a good start. The school age children have been on field trips such as Seltzer pool, library and the Cleveland Aquarium. We have many more trips planned for the summer. The fire truck also visited for even our younger students. They loved it. We are always trying to keep the children engaged in learning. On June 13th we had our carnival. We had a small crowd but it was still a great day. Thank you to all who helped out. We appreciate it. We still have openings for children. If you know anyone that needs care have them give me a call.

Heather Murray  
ABC Director

**PRAYER FOR THE MONTH, Pastor Rus**

Prayer: "Gracious and Almighty God,

We thank you for the gift of this summer season, for the beauty of your creation, and for the steadfast promise of your Word. In a world that constantly tells us we must earn our worth, we thank you for the liberating truth of the Gospel—that we are saved by your grace alone, through faith alone, on account of Christ alone.

Teach us what it truly means to live as your disciples in the freedom of that promise. Forgive us when we try to turn discipleship into a ladder of our own achievements and anchor us instead at the foot of the Cross.

Lord, stir our spirits so that our faith is never static. Having been claimed and washed in the waters of Holy Baptism, send us out into our community to be the hands and feet of your mercy. Help us to see our daily lives, our jobs, and our time with family not just as routine, but as a holy vocation, the very place where we get to love and serve our neighbors. Give us the courage to speak your word of hope to a hurting world, and the humility to serve without expecting anything in return. May everything we do this month reflect the light of Christ, keeping us ever mindful that we are both saints and sinners, fully dependent on your mercy, and securely held in your love. In the holy name of Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer, 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
John Bryson	Charles Hill	Judy Ream	Bob Stover
Steve Butler	Louise Hunter	Tom Roberts	Andy Thompson
Stacey Dahn	Phil Jennings	Emerson Saltzgaber	Gloria Turner
Meg Dean	Mary Knapp	David Scull	Diane Vencil
Jim Fellows	Justin Lalumiere	August Schreiber	Walter Will
Dorothy Foreman	Marvin Lash	Elsie Shepherd	Todd Wilson

## 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)

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

GREETERS	ACOLYTES	ASSISTING MINISTERS
July 5 - Judy Messner	July 5 - Kaylee Dabney	July 5 - Pam Copper
July 12 - Kari Case	July 12 - Jenna Cianflone	July 12 - Nancy Crum
July 19 - Bobbie Clevenger	July 19 - Abby Yoak	July 19 - Kristie Yoak
July 26 - Carol McLaughlin	July 26 - Paysen Sensmeier	July 26 - Gaye Shira
LECTORS	RECEIPTS	ALTAR FLOWERS
July 5 - Mary Hooks	July 5 - Dave Keinath	July 5 - Fred L. & Brad B.
July 12 - Rebekah Case	July 12 - Linda Bloomfield	July 12 - OPEN
July 19 - Sue Vogel	July 19 - Pat Saltzgaber	July 19 - OPEN
July 26 - Gaye Shira	July 26 - Pam Copper	July 26 - Nancy & John Medley
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS		ALTAR GUILD
July 5 - Pam Copper, Pat & Denise Heydinger, Mark & Peggy McKown		JULY/AUGUST
July 12 - Nancy Crum, Lucas Cianflone, Jenna Cianflone		Sandy Cornett & Hazel Bebow
July 19 - Kristie Yoak and Family		
July 26 - Gaye Shira, Pam Blakenhorn, Kari Case, Rebekah Case		



- July 1 – Diane Stiefel
- July 1 – Sue Winck
- July 2 – Leah Case
- July 5 – Rebekah Case
- July 6 – Cathy Beeching
- July 10 – Paul Martin
- July 11 – Mary Shaffer
- July 11 – Suzanne Vogel
- July 12 – Helen Eckenrode
- July 12 – Emily Roth
- July 13 – Barbara Harvey
- July 13 – Ashleigh Roth
- July 14 – Ellen Rigg
- July 16 – Douglas Lewis
- July 18 – Bonnie Huss
- July 18 – Robert Jess
- July 20 – Jennifer Ericsson
- July 22 – Hannah Yoak
- July 23 – McCray Martin
- July 24 – Lakelynn Roth
- July 26 – Ryan Ward
- July 28 – Sue Stover
- July 31 – Ethan Beck

- July 9 – Kevin & Laura Calver
- July 11 – Andrew & Denise Thompson
- July 24 – Gregory & Mary Dodge
- July 31 – Joseph & Rebecca Sparks

**MINISTRY TEAM**

PASTOR RUSSEL T. YOAK, SENIOR PASTOR:

[RUSYOAK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RUSYOAK@GMAIL.COM),

419-989-1575

GAYE SHIRA,

LAY MINISTRY OF VISITATION:

[GSHIRA1@YAHOO.COM](mailto:GSHIRA1@YAHOO.COM),

419-545-2277

PAUL MARTIN,

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC:

[FLCSHELBY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FLCSHELBY@GMAIL.COM), 419-289-6361

ABC CENTER

HEATHER MURRAY, DIRECTOR

[ABCLEARNINGCENTERSHELBY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ABCLEARNINGCENTERSHELBY@GMAIL.COM),

419-347-9246

BRIAN CRUM, TREASURER:

[BRIANCRUM83@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BRIANCRUM83@GMAIL.COM)

419-543-1819

SARAH MARTIN, CHILDREN’S MINISTRY:

[MRS.SARAHMARTIN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MRS.SARAHMARTIN@GMAIL.COM),

419-571-6796

LOUISE HUNTER, FOOD PANTRY DIRECTOR:

[WEZSJIM@NEO.RR.COM](mailto:WEZSJIM@NEO.RR.COM),

419-295-3019

CHURCH OFFICE 419-347-7675

[Website: FLCshelby.org](http://Website: FLCshelby.org)

[Facebook: First Lutheran Shelby](#)

[YouTube: Pastor Rus Yoak](#)

**PERSONAL EVENTS:** If you have the need for a party place, let First Lutheran help. We offer several places on site where your event can be held. Be it a big party or a smaller group. The use of our church facilities is free to our church members. There is a minimal fee for non-members. Fill out an event form attached or in the church office and pick up a key the day before your event. We ask that you clean up after your event and take the bags of trash to the dumpster. If you want to have an event during the weekdays we have to be mindful of our Day Care. Events can be scheduled now through the end of the year at the church office.

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

## JULY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Church Office Open 9-Noon  Food Pantry 9-11:30am	2 Church Office Open 9-Noon  Bible Study 4:00pm	3 Church Office CLOSED	4  INDEPENDENCE DAY
5 Table Talk 8:45am  Worship - 10:00am	6 Church Office Open 9-noon	7 Church Office Open 9-Noon	8 Church Office Open 9-Noon  Food Pantry 9-11:30am	9 Church Office Open 9-Noon  Bible Study 4:00pm	10 Church Office CLOSED	11
12 Table Talk 8:45am  Worship - 10:00am	13 Church Office Open 9-Noon	14 Church Office Open 9-Noon	15 Church Office Open 9-Noon  Food Pantry 9-11:30am	16 Church Office Open 9- Noon  Bible Study 4:00pm	17 Church Office CLOSED	18 <b>COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 8:00 - 10:00am</b>
19 Table Talk <u>8:45am</u>  Worship - <u>10:00am</u>	20 Church Office Open 9-Noon  <b>MEET ME ON MONDAY - CHINATOWN, ASHLAND ROAD</b>	21 Church Office Open 9-Noon  <b>MOBILE FOOD PANTRY 10AM</b>	22 Church Office Open 9-Noon  Food Pantry 9-11:30am	23 Church Office Open 9- Noon  Bible Study 4:00pm	24 Church Office CLOSED	25
26 Table Talk <u>8:45am</u>  Worship - <u>10:00am</u>	27 Church Office Open 9 - noon	28 Church Office Open 9-Noon  <b>COMMUNITY MEAL 4:30 - 6:00pm</b>	29	30 Church Office Open 9- Noon  Bible Study 4:00pm	31 Church Office CLOSED	

General Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Event (if repeating, when and how often): \_\_\_\_\_

Event Times Start: \_\_\_\_\_ End: \_\_\_\_\_

Setup: \_\_\_\_\_ Teardown/Clean Up: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*All cleanup is the responsibility of the event planner\*\***

Requested Location: Classroom \_\_\_\_\_ Sanctuary \_\_\_\_\_ Room 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Fellowship (Social) Hall \_\_\_\_\_  
Parlor \_\_\_\_\_ Parking Lot \_\_\_\_\_ Little Chapel \_\_\_\_\_ Office Conference Room \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Description of activity (i.e. youth retreat, prayer service, wedding, workshop, luncheon, special music, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Expected attendance \_\_\_\_\_

Check all the resources you will be using:

\_\_\_\_\_ Sound (audio/visual?) \_\_\_\_\_ Kitchen Access \_\_\_\_\_ Tables & Chairs

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Round Tables: Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Rectangular Tables: Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Approval (staff signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Requests must be received at least 30 days in advance of the event to be considered for approval. We will review and respond to your request within one week of receipt of request. You may submit your request by giving it to the Secretary or putting it in the office mail box or by emailing it to [firstlutheranshelby@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutheranshelby@gmail.com)