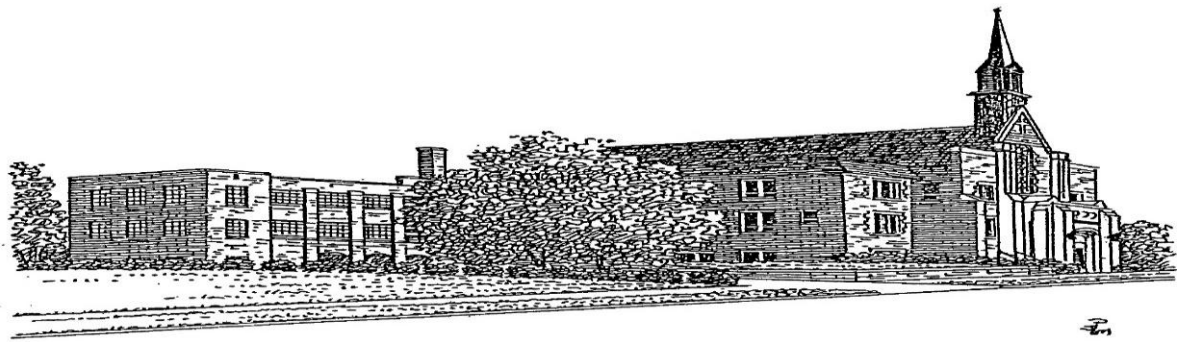




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SEPT 2026

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,

From early in my childhood, I remember one of the more dizzying and fascinating experiences I had usually occurred around Labor Day. On my father's side of the family, my grandmother's maiden name was Morrison, and the Morrison Family Reunion was, in a word, epic. Every Labor Day weekend, all the aunts, uncles, and cousins would descend on the old farmhouse that had been the original Morrison Family farmhouse in Calhoun County, West Virginia, for a family reunion that numbered in the dozens, if not hundreds. As a child I remember the three most fun elements of the affair were...in this order: the food (which would take up more than half a dozen folding tables borrowed from a local church), exploring the falling down farmhouse (that none of us kids were supposed to go in, which meant we all did), and listening to my Great Uncle Jep (Jeptha Dunn Morrison), who almost always had something interesting and funny...and probably wholly inappropriate, to say.

One of the interesting things was that it didn't matter who you saw, or met, or got a chance to see again...no matter how many other kids were there, and there were always lots of them, everyone you met was probably a cousin of some variety or another. Granted, some of them were second cousins twice removed...or more. But we were family all the same. Everywhere you looked, you saw folks who looked and talked and sounded at least a little like you. As far as I know, they aren't having the reunions anymore. Too many folks have moved away, lost touch, or simply lack the interest in trying. This time of year, I tend to pause and reflect on what is lost when the gathering ceases to gather. The world we live in is suffering from a deep case of disconnectedness. That, of course, is the irony of living in a world in which mass means of communication are at all of our fingertips, and yet we rarely feel connected.

Fall is a time when the church tries to shake off the Summer Slump. Every year, vacations, responsibilities, and activities send congregations into a self-imposed hibernation. We stop classes, suspend meetings, and generally put most things on pause while the summer weather allows for other activities. All of this is part of the rhythm of the seasons and is perfectly fine...as long as we remember to put the pause on pause in the fall and return to gathering. Church is a place where we come to remember that we belong. It's that the folks in the pews next to us are not fellow spectators at some event, but family members who claim the same Heavenly Father and thus number among our siblings and cousins. We come to worship, study, celebrate, and receive comfort in our congregation by being around people who look and talk and sound at least a little like you. They are your spiritual cousins...even those spiritually second cousins twice removed. Jesus says in Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." It is in the Gathering that Jesus is revealed to us. Imagine all we would lose if the gathering failed to gather.

As we begin to put our Fall habits in place, so much more than setting our clocks back an hour or getting the kids ready for a new school year, prioritize gathering with your family in Christ. See all your cousins. Just like at the Morrison family reunion, even when I knew almost none of the kids there, I knew I was among family...when you come to church, even if you feel like you don't know a single face...just remember you are among family.

Blessings,
Pastor Rus

EXCITING NEW THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT FIRST!

YOU ARE  INVITED

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

 1ST LUTHERAN CHURCH
SHELBY, OHIO

JOIN US!	WHEN:	WHERE:
 STARTING: SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2026	 THE FIRST & THIRD SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH AT 11:15 AM	 CHURCH OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM

TOPIC:
HELP US DECIDE!

Our topic for study will be chosen at our first meeting on Sept 13th! Come and share your ideas!

QUESTIONS? EMAIL US: RUSYOAK@GMAIL.COM |  CALL US: (419) 989-1575
 WWW.FLCSHELBY.ORG |  YOUTUBE: RusselYoak



ABC LEARNING CENTER

GRAND-VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

BECOME A VOLUNTEER!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- INFANT CARE
(Cuddle, hold, comfort)
- STORYTIME
(Read books, fingerplays)
- ARTS & CRAFTS
(Preschool medium, painting)
- chapel SUPPORT
(Weekly bible stories, songs)



PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Foster intergenerational connections
- Make a lasting impact
- Share your love & talents
- Positive role model
- Support a Christian foundation



CENTER INFORMATION

- Open Mon-Fri,
5:00 AM-5:30 PM
- Preschool, Toddler,
Infant Rooms



SCHEDULE:

ANY TIME BETWEEN 9:00AM - 11:00AM

419-347-9246 | Email: abclearningcentershelby@gmail.com

The Grand-Volunteer Program allows community members to share their time, warmth, and talents with young children while fostering meaningful intergenerational relationships. Volunteers can assist directly with childcare activities during operational hours or support the facility through hands-on work projects outside of classroom times.

Volunteer Opportunities

Infant & Toddler Care: Cuddling, holding, and comforting infants in a quiet, supportive environment.

Storytelling & Chapel Support: Reading books, leading fingerplays, and sharing Bible stories during scheduled chapel and quiet times.

Arts & Crafts: Helping preschool children with painting, clay, and hands-on sensory projects.

Positive Mentoring: Assisting teachers in classrooms during morning activity blocks (ideally between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM).

Facility Maintenance & Outdoor Projects: Assisting with light repairs, painting, groundskeeping, and organizing—perfect for those available during off-hours or who prefer non-classroom tasks.

A SIGN-UP SHEET IS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE HALLWAY AT THE CHURCH. WE HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER BEING A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL CHILD MINISTRY.

ABC LEARNNG CENTER - Heather Murray, Director

We had another great summer. As the new school year starts, we look forward to the students learning new things. The children have moved classrooms, so they are learning all about what to do in the new classroom with a new teacher. We are looking forward to many activities throughout the school year. So, look for more information as it comes. We have openings in every classroom. We need more children to attend. If you know someone who needs care have them call me. The childcare number is 419-347-9246. Blessings, Heather

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC – Paul Martin

Beginning September 16th- Choirs will start up again! If you have been considering getting involved musically, talk to Paul Martin about this possibility! If you have kids interested in participating, please let us know!

CHURCH OFFICE – Debbie Crum

The office volunteers are continuing to help our Historian. We have been working on the organization of the Confirmation photos and have found we have extras of some years. If you, or someone you know who would like a photo, please call the church office and we will reserve a photo for you. These are professional 8 x 10 photos.

Graduating classes: 1953, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 61, 67, 68, 69, 1970, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1994, 1995, 1996, and 2003

FINANCE – Brian Crum

While so far it doesn't appear August has been terrible from a financial standpoint, July was very rough. It was a three-pay month. When tied with generally less attendance and giving, it kind of created the perfect storm. In the end, the Church side operations exceeded giving by about \$10,000. The ABC Center also showed a loss of roughly \$17,000. While we do budget for a loss in three pay months, specifically on the daycare side, this was more than usual. On the ABC side, we have made some changes with ratios and done a lot of work with accounts receivable in order to make sure this doesn't happen again.

On the front of the youth group, Riley, Maddie, and I met last night to set up our fall schedule. We are very excited about the activities we have in store for the group. We are also going to attempt to do a elementary age youth group twice a month prior to our teen youth group so those kids have something fun to look forward to. More info on both of those to come! Our first youth group will be on September 13th.

The bus stop ministry is now in full swing. We serve about two dozen kids daily. We have a small number of middle school kids who hang out in the conference room between the time that they get off school and when their little siblings get off the bus, which is going really well. The rest of the kids just grab a snack. So far everyone has been very respectful and a lot of fun to be around. As we are giving a snack to 24 kids in the afternoon and perhaps 12 in the morning (although I expect that to increase as the weather gets colder), we are easily going through 180 snacks a week. Pepperidge Farm was kind enough to donate goldfish cracker and Milano cookies, which will get us through a few weeks, but any snack donations are welcome. We have received tremendous support from a good number of you. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!, for your donations.

If anyone would like to come and say hi to the kids, they are very much welcome. The elementary bus gets here about 3:40, which is a great time to say hello. Some of the kids, particularly Cohen, have started helping out around the Church as well. If you see him at a Tuesday night dinner, make sure to say hello!

Thank you all for your tremendous support in all of our programming!
Sincerely, Brian

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, Sarah Martin

Our Children's Church program is looking for teachers and assistants to serve on a rotating basis for this coming school year. We are planning on starting Children's Church the week after Labor Day, Sunday, Sep. 13. All children will meet together in one Children's Church class, and we have a new curriculum designed to help children explore the same Bible story in ways appropriate for their age. Each week, all of the children will learn the same Bible story, while using age-appropriate activity books and materials created especially for their age level.

We are looking for both teachers who will lead the lesson, and assistants who will help with activities and support the children during class. You do not need to commit to teaching every week. The rotation schedule will be determined by the number of volunteers who sign up, so the more people who participate, the less often each person will need to serve.

Please consider volunteering as a teacher or assistant. Whether you have years of experience working with children or are simply willing to lend a helping hand, you can make a difference in helping our children grow in their faith. Many hands make light work! Contact Sarah Martin or the church office if you are interested in teaching or assisting.

DATES TO REMEMBER

...MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Sunday, August 30 at 10:00am - Jazz Worship Service

Saturday, October 10th at 6:00pm – Concert by Dale Power & His Circle of Friends

Sunday, November 15 at 10:00am- worship with Vocalist Bryan Hutson

Sunday, November 22 at 6:00pm – Concert with Justin Crank & GloryWay



Thanksgiving Day, November 26th ...while it does seem pretty strange to be bringing up Thanksgiving in August, Mrs. Shira loves to plan ahead! She will be needing volunteers for prep work, serving and cleaning up, along with donations. She will be sending out more information and a signup sheet, as we get closer.

THE CHOSEN – A new Bible Study immediately following the Community meal on Tuesday, September 22nd.

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

Young Adult Bible Study – Begins September 13th – at 11:15 in the Administrative Building conference room. Classes will be on the 1st the 3rd Sundays of the month

CHURCH BREAKFAST – Saturday, September 19th in the Social Hall, 8:00 to 10:00am

Confirmation Classes Begin – September 20th at 11:15 in the Administrative Building conference room. Classes will be on the 1st the 3rd Sundays of the month

MEET ME ON MONDAY – Monday, September 21st at O'Bryan's Pub, 1640 Clairemont Avenue, Ashland.

FOOD PANTRY – Louise Hunter, Director – Requesting Toilet paper donations

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY – 3rd Tuesday of each month

First Lutheran Parking Lot 10:00am

September 15, 2026

COMMUNITY MEAL – September 22nd in the Social Hall, 4:30 to 6:00pm

Serving a spaghetti dinner with dessert

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH, Pastor Rus

Prayer: "Gracious and Loving God,

As the summer sun softens and the rhythms of autumn return to Shelby, we give You thanks for the gift of bringing us back together. You call us into community not as strangers, but as sisters and brothers united in Your grace.

As we open our doors to a new season of ministry, children's church, confirmation, new Bible Studies, and fellowship at 1st Lutheran, open our hearts as well. Where two or three are gathered in Your name, You have promised to be with us. Remind us that to love one another is to fulfill Your law, and grant us the patience, humility, and willingness to listen to one another with Christ-like compassion.

Guide our hands as we serve our neighbors, strengthen our bonds as we worship together, and teach us to be a light of welcome to all who walk through our doors.

In Jesus' name, we pray. *Amen.*"

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE MONTH

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

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

VISITATION LIST

CRESTWOOD CARE CENTER-225 W Main St, Shelby 44875

- John Hancock, (Rm 15)
- Cohen & Paula Lewis (74)
- Earl Lynch Sr
- Sue Egner

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 Road, Mansfield 44905

- Di Anna White (Rm 221)
- Shirley Stine (Rm 121)

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
Don Jeffrey, 2230 Shelby Ganges Rd, Shelby	419-651-3971
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
Bob Stover, 16 Riverview, Shelby	419-543-5035
Gloria Turner, 18 Riverview, Shelby	304-927-2347

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

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
Sept 6 – Judy Messner	Sept 6 – Jenna Cianflone	Sept 6 – Pam Copper
Sept 13 – Sue Vogel	Sept 13 – Abby Yoak	Sept 13 – Shirley Huskey
Sept 20 – Bobbie Clevenger	Sept 20 – Paysen Sensmeier	Sept 20 – Nancy Crum
Sept 27 – Cathy Dodge	Sept 27 – Jenna Cianflone	Sept 27 – Kristie Yoak
LECTORS	RECEIPTS	ALTAR FLOWERS
Sept 6 – Mary Hooks	Sept 6 – Bill Parr	Sept 6 – Susie Clark
Sept 13 – Shirley Huskey	Sept 13 – Crol McLaughlin	Sept 13 – Judy Hoover
Sept 20 – Kari Case	Sept 20 – Kelly Crum	Sept 20 – Sue Schiffer
Sept 27 – Sandy Cornett	Sept 27 – Cassie Gates	Sept 27 – Gaye Shira
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS		ALTAR GUILD
Sept 6 – Pam Copper, Pat Saltzgaber, Linda Bloomfield		September/October
Sept 13 – Shirley Huskey, Pat & Denise Heydinger		Gaye Shira & Charlotte Butler
Sept 20 – Nancy Crum, Jenna Cianflone, Ethan Beck		
Sept 27 – Kristie Yoak & Family		

ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 1 – August & Patricia Schreiber

Sept 6 – Douglas & Shirley Huskey

Sept 9 - David & Nanci Keinath

Sept 24 – Ray & Gaye Shira

BIRTHDAYS



Sept 1 – Vicky Barre

Sept 3 – Sarah Martin

Sept 5 – Jacob Stover

Sept 7 – Gail Dahn

Sept 7 - Sue Schiffer

Sept 10 – Justin Dabney

Sept 13 – Barbara Burky

Sept 14 – Mary Hooks

Sept 17 – Walter Burler

Sept 19 – Cassandra Gates

Sept 10 – Deborah Beck

Sept 20 – Michelle Glenwright

Sept 20 – Earl Lynch

Sept 20 – Danny Crum

Sept 22 – Jimmy Crum

Sept 23 – Judy Messner

Sept 24 – Tonya Garofalo

Sept 27 – Ronald Jones

Sept 29 – Christopher Shick

Sept 30 – Gergory Dodge

THANK YOU

A BIG heartfelt thank you to all of those that helped with the Ice Cream Social. Helping with the planning, the set-up, the serving, the clean-up and take down. We planned for 80 guests, and it is believed we hit our goal. Your assistance was appreciated more than you will know! Also, a big thank you to our guest!

Pam Copper

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, Finance

BRIANCRUM83@GMAIL.COM

419-543-1819

SARAH MARTIN, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

MRS.SARAHMARTIN@GMAIL.COM,

419-571-6796

LOUISE HUNTER, FOOD PANTRY DIRECTOR:

WEZNJIM@NEO.RR.COM,

419-295-3019

CHURCH OFFICE 419-347-7675

Website: FLCshelby.org

Facebook: First Lutheran Shelby / YouTube: Pastor Rus Yoak

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Church Office Open 9-Noon Stewardship Committee 11:00am Worship Committee 7:00pm Property Committee 7:00pm	2 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30am Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	3 Church Office Open 9-Noon Bible Study 4:00pm	4 Church Office CLOSED	5
6 Table Talk 8:45am Worship - 10:00am	7 Church Office Open 9-noon	8 Church Office Open 9-Noon Church Finance Committee 11:00am Church Council Meeting 7:00pm	9 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30am Sewing Ministry 9:00am Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	10 Church Office Open 9-Noon Bible Study 4:00pm	11 Church Office CLOSED	12
13 Table Talk <u>8:45am</u> Worship - <u>10:00am</u> Young Adult Bible Study 11:15am Admin Building Conference Rm Youth Group	14 Church Office Open 9-Noon ABC Finance Committee 2:00pm	15 Church Office Open 9-Noon MOBILE FOOD PANTRY 10:00	16 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30am Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	17 Church Office Open 9-Noon Bible Study 4:00pm	18 Church Office CLOSED	19 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 8:00-10:00AM Social Hall
20 Table Talk 8:45am Worship - 10:00am Confirmation Class 11:15 Admin Building Conference Rm Youth Group	21 Church Office Open 9-Noon MEET ME ON MONDAY O'Bryan's Pub, Ashland	22 Church Office Open 9-Noon COMMUNITY MEAL 4:30-6:00 THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY FOLLOWING MEAL	23 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30am Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00	24 Church Office Open 9-Noon Bible Study 4:00pm	25 Church Office CLOSED	26
27 Table Talk <u>8:45am</u> Worship - <u>10:00am</u> Young Adult Bible Study 11:15am Conference Rm Youth Group	28 Church Office Open 9-Noon	29 Church Office Open 9-Noon	30 Church Office Open 9-Noon Food Pantry 9-11:30am Choir 6:00 Bells 7:00			