



THE ENLIGHTENER

FEBRUARY 2024

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Feeding our Soul

Grace and Peace to you from Christ our Lord,

Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year. Let's hope you weren't giving up chocolate....or if you are, you might want to celebrate early. Fortunately, these two holidays don't sync up that often, but here we are. Maybe there is something important to be learned though.

At first glance it just seems like an unfortunate happenstance that will make both holidays awkward to observe, but if you look just a little deeper at both days there seems to be more that connects them than just bad luck on a calendar. St. Valentine (one of more than a few folks named that) was known for breaking Roman laws to perform Christian marriages for Roman soldiers. In addition to his deeds of support for true love it is said that he once healed the blind daughter of a Roman official. According to legend the last thing that Valentine did before being executed by the Romans for preaching the gospel was write a letter to the young lady he healed of her blindness about God's love for her, which he signed "your Valentine". As a result, Valentine has long been held as the patron saint of both love and the blind. If one properly understands the origin of St. Valentine's Day, you can see that first and foremost Valentine was about a deeper form of love than just romance. Ultimately St. Valentine's Day is about celebrating Love at its purest level....and with that in mind we can transition to Ash Wednesday.

This holiday most certainly is associated with mourning, repentance, and grief. It doesn't seem to have much to say about love, and certainly nothing to do with romance. But again, if we look deeper, there is more connection here than calendar dates. Why are we entering into the season of Lent with repentance and solemn observances? Does our suffering in any way earn favor with God in a way that produces salvation? Of course not. That was accomplished on the cross for us. So, what do we impose Lenten disciplines for? We are solemn and penitent in response to the knowledge that God's grace, which is sufficient for the entirety of our sins, was given because the weight of our sin was too great for us to bear or correct. God had to intervene and bear it for us...an act of love greater than any we could achieve. The cross is God's Valentine to humanity. It is a statement of love that surpasses our deepest sentiment. If the cross is God's statement of love, and the ashes of Ash Wednesday our loving response, then suddenly Valentine's Day is more than an inconvenient day to celebrate....it is a right and good day.

So, happy Ash Wednesday/St. Valentine's Day...send a valentine to your loved one, and ready yourself to receive yours from He who gave all to you.

Blessings, Pastor Rus.



MUSIC NOTES – Paul Martin, Ministry of Worship & Music

First off, we want to say a huge thank you to Debbie Beck and Sandy Cornett for their leadership and ministry this past weekend with the Pasta Dinner Benefit for our beloved Pipe Organ. What a blessing they are to our Church! They will again host another benefit on Sunday, February 11th as they prepare a Shepherd's Pie Dinner following Worship! You won't want to miss this delicious event!

Next, we will host a "Soup Cook-Off" on Sunday, February 18th following Worship. Whether you want to sign up to bring soup, or simply to partake, don't miss this great time in the Lord as we continue to raise funds for the renovations to our organ! This event is always so much fun!

Finally, this year, Lent begins on February 14th with a service at 12:00pm in the Chapel, and an evening service at 6:00pm. Come for both the imposition of ashes and holy communion.



FOOD PANTRY – Louise Hunter, Food Pantry Director

First of all, thank you so very much to the congregation for your very generous support of the Food Pantry Donation Basket. I think this is going to work out very well.

For February, the donation requested is toothpaste and toothbrushes.

We are considering whether to go back to using masks at the Pantry on Wednesdays. We have had 5 workers out with Covid recently.

Thank you for donating and thank you to our dedicated workers each week.

Louise Hunter, Director



FINANCE – Brian Crum, Treasurer

The financial news for First Lutheran is similar to prior years. While January is not finished yet, I have noticed the typical winter slowdown. As you probably saw in the annual report, we did end 2023 with a little over \$30,000 loss. This is a slightly higher loss than previous years, but that is not unexpected as we made a choice to bring back some staff and programming in 2023 to provide better outreach and programming. We still have about \$60,000 in the contingency fund and another \$30,000 in undesignated memorials, so we have a little cushion. Additionally, I am waiting for the IRS to send us checks from the amended tax returns to claim the Employee Retention Credit. If we receive those funds, we will have a nice safety net. The ABC Center still has a very healthy contingency fund and I expect the program to have an improvement in operations with our recent changes. Long story short, while we definitely have had significant losses, we are still okay for the short term.



YOUTH GROUP – Brian Crum

In an effort to bring in some more Christian education and cut our activity costs, we have started a docuseries on the ministries of Jesus. We will be watching that throughout the winter with a sprinkling of fun activities throughout.

Speaking of fun activities, I am going to try to invite both the younger kids in our church and the kids from the bus stop to some of the local trips our youth group is doing. It certainly doesn't hurt to invite a few extra kids, and hopefully it will help bridge the gap to get the next generation into youth groups.



BUS STOP MINISTRY - Brian Crum

Thank you so much for all the snack and gloves/hats/scarf donations. The kids have definitely made use of clothing items with the cold temperatures these last few weeks! The food is also very welcome! We are always in need of more snacks and could use some old board games for the office if you have any sitting around that you don't need anymore.

Thank you all for your support in so many aspects of our ministry!
Brian



ABC LEARNING CENTER – Calvin Calver

Well, the ABC Learning Center has been staying warm, thanks to the efforts of a few good men! There have been some ups and downs, but we are working on that. There is a little bit of change in the daily routine with the schools closing, illness and the effects of ridiculously cold windchill temperatures and snow. Things have been busy with a few items that needed addressed, a new washer and dryer, new highchairs, a couple minor fixes and creating a staff break room (thanks Sara) top the list.

ABC Learning Center has 38 students on the roster with four of them only attending three days a week. Seven additional kiddos are on the drop-in list. Seven families have enrolled two or three kiddos. Three families have picked up registration packets in the past three weeks.

The Center has 10 hourly employees, six full-time and four part-time staff not including the Director. The full-time staff is Sara Westmoreland, Infant Teacher, Christina Liles, Pre-Toddler Teacher, Janey McCourt, Toddler Teacher, Rachel Shepherd, Pre-school Teacher, Janette (Netta) Kegley, Cook and Brittany Mensah, School-age, and Assistant Director. The part-time staff includes Shonda Meadows, Diane Vencil, and PCTC students Ryleigh Fulton and Kate Fetzer.

Oh yes, a few good men Mark, Bob and Bill! Thank you!



RUBY'S PRAYER OF THE MONTH

O God, hear our prayer that we would begin the new year in full partnership with our Lord. We would seek His counsel asking what we ought to do. We would ask His guidance in "how to do it". We would remember that Jesus said, "Without Me you can do nothing." We would remember His promise "Ask and you shall receive that your joy may be full." Hear our prayer given in His name.

Amen.

LET US PRAY...Prayer request for the month of February

Fred Beeching	Rose Furr	Joanne Martin
Greg Beeching	John Hancock	August Schreiber
Sally Barley	Bill Jennings	Stan Sensmeier
Annalisha Corwin	Cohen Lewis	Myrna Spath
Barb Davies	Becky Loveless	Diane Stiefel
Jackie Davies	Earl Lynch Sr	Bob Stover
Dorothy Foreman	Emanuel Martin	

PRAYER REQUEST - Every January the prayer list is cleared, and we begin again. If you or someone you know would like to be put on the prayer list, please contact the church office. (419-347-7675)

VISITATION LIST - January 24, 2024

Mildred House - CRYSTAL CARE OF ASHLAND-1251 E Main St Ashland 44805

Candy Potts - DAYSPRING ASSISTED LIVING-3220 Olivesburg Rd, Mansfield 44903

Veronica O'Keefe - GOOD SHEPHERD OF FOSTORIA-725 Columbus Ave, Fostoria 44830

Dorothy Foreman - LEXINGTON COURT CARE CENTER-250 Delaware Ave, Lexington 44904

Almeida McKown - LUTHERAN VILLAGE OF ASHLAND-330 Davis Rd Ashland 44805

Joe Sparks - MANSFIELD PLACE-1841 Middle Bellville Rd Mansfield 44904

Miriam Lambert - O'NEILL HEALTHCARE-4800 Clague Rd, Apt 116 North Olmstead 44070

Patricia Baird- ONTARIO ESTATES-2010 Walker Lake Rd, Ontario 44906

Joann Rigg - ONTARIO ESTATES-2010 Walker Lake Rd, Ontario 44906

Mary Jane Burrer - THE WILLOWS-1050 Neal Zick Rd, Willard 44890

Gerald Sisinger - THE WILLOWS-1050 Neal Zick Rd, Willard 44890

Jane Beeching, 47 Marvin Ave, Shelby.....419-347-5255
Carolyn Bricker, 1887 St Rt 96E, Shelby..... 419-347-5415
Ruth Greter, 2877 Stiving Rd, Mansfield 44903..... 419-347-1435
John Hancock, 31 Sherwood, Shelby.....419-543-0392
Bob & Carol Jess, 84 Shelby Ave, Shelby.....567-844-0253
Patricia Knapp, 25 Riverview, Shelby.....419-564-5227
Pat Rank, 4 Park Village, Shelby.....419-347-4211
Jim & Patti Schaub, 17 West End Blvd, Shelby.....419-342-2774
August Schreiber, 3391 St Rt 96E, Shelby.....419-989-1322
Renee' Simpson, 5690 Racoon Valley Rd, Alexandria 43001.....740-924-2061
Jeannie Sisinger, 634 McBride Rd, Mansfield 44905 WILLOWS (Gerald's daughter)
Jim & Shirley Stine, 18 W Maxwell, Shelby.....419-631-9761

ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENING WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY – February 13, 2024, 6:00pm

MEET ME ON MONDAY.... February 19th at Diner 39, at Noon

CHURCH BREAKFAST ... February 17th at 8:00am to 10:00pm

SHEPHERDS PIE DINNER ... Sunday, February 11th a Shepherd's Pie Dinner following



First Lutheran Church

SHEPHERD'S PIE DINNER

Benefit for Pipe Organ Renovations

Sunday, February 11, 2024, 11:00am



LENT ... Begins on February 14th with a service at 12:00pm in the Chapel, and an evening service at 6:00pm. Come for both the imposition of ashes and holy communion. **Lenten suppers 6:00 pm Desserts will be available for donation to Youth Ministries. Dinner Donations to benefit Organ Fund**

21-Feb	Pam Blankenhorn and Mary Lee Barr	13-Mar	Gaye Shira
	Hotdogs/Coneys		Ham Sliders
	Potato Soup		Tomato Soup
	Cole Slaw		Salad
28-Feb	Judy Hoover	20-Mar	Shirley Huskey
	Macaroni & Cheese		Shredded Chicken
	Sausage		Chicken Noodle Soup
	Salad		
6-Mar	Sandy Cornett		
	BBQ Pork		
	Chips		
	Salad		

SOUP COOK-OFF ... on Sunday, February 18th



FOLLOWING 10AM SERVICE

We are bringing back the Soup Cook-Off. This is a fundraiser with proceeds benefiting the Organ Fund. We need people to bring soup! Chili, Chicken Noodle, Clam Chowder...It's your choice. All are welcome to participate in the cook-off or simply come and enjoy the food. We also need people to donate pies for dessert, to help set up, tear down, and work in the kitchen. Volunteers should sign up on the sign-up sheet passed around during the service. Those not participating in

the contest will be the judges by voting for their favorite soup. After taste-testing small samples of each soup, judges should return to their favorite soup and purchase a bowl by giving a monetary donation. The contestant with the most money will be the winner, so the more you donate, the greater chance your favorite soup has of winning! These funds will be matched by our anonymous donor, so please make sure you plan to attend.

GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRY – We are looking for people to be part of the Good Shepherd Ministry. “Shepherds” send out cards to church members. Please contact the church office if you are willing to be part of this meaningful group.

A big thank you to those who are currently good shepherds!!

ENLIGHTENER SPECIAL NOTICE!!

PLEASE NOTE THAT BEGINNING JANUARY 2024 WE WILL BE MAILING OUR ENLIGHTENERS TO SHUT-INS ONLY. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN EMAIL, PAPER COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH FOR PICK UP. DUE TO THE EVER-RISING COST OF STAMPS, WE MUST REDUCE OUR NUMBER OF COPIES THAT WE MAIL. WE ALSO WANT TO LET YOU KNOW THAT THE MONTHLY ENLIGHTENER WILL BE ON OUR WEBSITE - (FLCSHELBY.ORG). IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AT ALL, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE. WE WANT EVERYONE WHO WANTS THE ENLIGHTENER TO RECEIVE ONE!

ALSO, IF YOU RECEIVE YOUR ENLIGHTENER BY EMAIL AND HAVE HAD ISSUES RECEIVING IT, PLEASE CHECK YOUR JUNK/SPAM FOLDER. IF IT IS NOT THERE, CALL THE OFFICE AND WE CAN CHECK TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS.

OUR SYMPATHY... to Pam Blankenhorn and Mary Lee Barr on the passing of their sister, Lourita Joy (Hannafus) Yore

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT!

An anonymous donor will match dollar per dollar up to \$15,000 to go toward the Organ Repair Fund. They are willing to count the funds raised in December as part of the match. NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL! Please use the envelopes in the pews, adding your name or envelope number and indicate "Match Gift". Let's see how quickly we can complete the match and reach the goal of \$30,000.00!

DONATIONS TOWARD OUR MATCH GIVING FOR DECEMBER

\$2,973.49

Endowment Tree – During the month of February we highlight the Mission Endowment. When a donation is made, we put a plaque on our Endowment Tree. The Endowment Tree is located on the wall in the Parlor. Over the years, we have been blessed with gifts from the following people.

Allen	Charles	2013	Foreman	William	2016	Pena	Bella	2012
Amstutz	Wendell	2022	Furr	Barbara	2023	Pena	Ferron	2019
Anderson	Richard	2017	Geer	Charlie	2013	Pena	Findley	2019
Aubel	Helen	2022	Gibson	Annette	2015	Pettit	Pauline	1994
Ault	Gloria	2022	Giese	Elisabeth	2015	Phelps	Lois	2012
Baird	Howard	2022	Greter	Robert	2022	Preston	Lena	2018
Baird	Bill	2020	Hadamuscin	John	2019	Preston	Norman	1994
Baker	Catherine	2017	Hannafus	Florence	2013	Pugh	Annabell	2016
Barr	Arthur	2018	Harvey	Marlene	2020	Pugh	Raymond	1994
Barton	Jane	2015	Haverfield	Donald E.	2012	Renz	Albert	2019
Barton	Angus	2023	Haverfield	Frances	2023	Robicheau	Alys	1986
Barton	Jane & Angus	2011	Harvey	Robert	2013	Roth	James	1999
Baxter	Nadine	2005	Hass	Wilbur	2006	Rowland	Richard	2018
Beach	Louis	2018	Hays	George	2020	Ruffaner	Geraldine	2015
Bebow	Larry	2018	Heifner	Alice	2019	Ruhl	Leslie	2014
Beeching	Ed	2006	Heifner	Robert	2018	Sampsel	Darwin	2018
Berdanier	Doris	2012	Holtz	Helen	2007	Schiffer	Thomas	2020
Blankenhorn	Robert & Pam	2015	Hoover	Jacque	2023	Schreiber Family	Gus	2011
Blankenhorn	Pastor Aaron	2015	Hoover	J. R.	2015	Shick	Leonard	2021
Blankenhorn Jr	Robert	2019	Hoover	Reba	2015	Shaw	Dr. David	1992
Boardman	Dean	2017	Jeffrey	Trina	2021	Shira	Betty	1997
Boor	Martin	2011	Jones	Robert	2016	Shira	Ray	2010
Boor	Mary Ellen	2018	Keiser	Carolyn	2015	Sisinger	Iva Jean	2019
Boor	Robert	2019	Stroup-Kemp	Jeanne	2021	Smith	Leonard	2012
Boor	Robert & Mary Ellen	2011	Keiser	Ron	2013	Smith	Sandra	2016
Booth	Steven	2014	Kilgore	Eleanor	2000	Spangler	Thomas	2020
Boyce	Arthur	1995	Kilgore	Eleanor & George	2006	Squires	Janice	2005
Bricker	James	1995	Kleer	Marilyn	2015	Stevens	Martha	2005
Brown	Lelia	2011	Kleer	Robert	2019	Stidham	Jeannette	2023
Buckert	Wallace	2018	Knapp	Charles	2014	Striker	Allen	2021
Butler	Marie	2012	Lambert	Rev. George	2014	Strohm	Elizabeth	2012
Canright	Robert	2016	Lantz	Thomas	2022	Strohm Sr.	Weldon	2009
Carlisle	Pat & Rich	2013	Laws	Gene	2009	Stroup	Betty	2019
Claes	Dorothy	2020	Laws	Margaret	2016	Stroup	Dean	2016
Clevenger	Gary	2020	Lohr	Jean	2014	Stoup-Kemp	Jeanne	2021
Cole	George	2016	Love	Bill	2014	Sweet	Irene	2021
Cole	Maxine	2016	Love	Tess	2023	Utz	James	1995
Cooper	Linda	2014	Mako	John	2012	Von Stein	Emma	2009
Cross	Lynnette	2023	McLaughlin	Jack	2013	Von Stein	Howard	2013
Crum	James	2022	Miller	Mary	1994	Wetz	Donald	2018
Curry	Sarah	2021	Myers	Gladys	2015	Wetz	Eileen	2018
Davies	Dale	2018	Neal	Lesli	2015	Williston	Bonnie	2019
Davies	Katherine	2018	Panknin	Herta (Renz)	2023	Wilson	Richard	2014
Davies	T. Earl	2018	Panknin	Horst	2009	Winemiller	Lois	2005
Dodge	Bill & Marie	2017	Norris	Betty	2022	Wise	Shirley	2021
Dodge	Marie	2019	Parrott	Peggy	2019	Wise	Roy	2018
Duff	Roy	2016	Partners	Symphony		Workman	Jeanene	2018
Easterday	Catherine	2001						

BIRTHDAYS

February 1st - Deidra Paulo
February 4th - Larry Ault, Jenna Cianflone, Michael Van Vlerah
February 6th - Paula Lewis
February 7th - Martin Hull
February 8th - Lillian Heydinger
February 9th - Jenny Leemaster
February 10th - Garrett Shealy
February 11th - Eric Ericsson
February 12th - Madelyn Dabney
February 13th - Doris Allen, Kari Furr
February 15th - James Nadolsky, Faline Rowland, August Schreiber
February 17th - Kevin Calver, John Hancock
February 18th - Scott Beck, Evelyn Westfall
February 19th - Veronica O'Keefe
February 20th - Carol McLaughlin
February 21st - Coen Beeching
February 23rd - Scott Donnenwirth
February 24th - Hannah Allen, Mary Lee Barr, Ruth Greter, Kenneth Papay
February 25th - Steven Tischer
February 26th - Cori Kreger, Gregory Vogel
February 28th - Louise Hunter, Hannah Sexton, Amy Yantis
February 29th - Karen Reith

ANNIVERSARIES

February 11th - Earl and Geraldine Lynch
February 12th - Jacque and Mia Hoover
February 14th - Robert and Cara Pena
February 23rd - Robert and Connie Brinson
February 25th - Scott and Yvonne Donnenwirth
February 26th - Robert and Cynthia Philbrick
February 27th - Terry and Roberta Boice

CHURCH ALTAR FLOWERS

Feb 4th - OPEN
Feb 11th - OPEN
Feb 18th - OPEN
Feb 25th - OPEN

ACOLYTE

Feb 4th - Kaylee Dabney
Feb 11th - Ethan Beck
Feb 18th - Jenna Cianflone
Feb 25th - Lillian Beck

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS, ALTAR FLOWERS, AND ALTAR GUILD

GREETERS

Feb 4th - Sue Schiffer
Feb 11th - Carol McLaughlin
Feb 14th - (7pm)
Gaye Shira/Charlotte
Buttler
Feb 18th - Sue Vogel
Feb 25th - Bobbie Clevenger

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Feb 4th - Pam Copper, Renee Nastasi, Linda Bloomfield
Feb 11 - Nancy Crum, Kevin Calver, Carol McLaughlin
Feb 14th - (ASH WED) Mark & Peggy McKown, Shirley Huskey
Feb 18th - Kristie Yoak, Katie Yoak, Hannah Yoak
Feb 25th - Pam Blankenhorn, Mary Lee Barr, Cassie Lynch

LECTORS

Feb 4th - Renee Nastasi
Feb 11th - Kevin Calver
Feb 14th - (ASH WED)
Shirley Huskey
Feb 18th - Sue Vogel
Feb 25th - Pam Blankenhorn

ALTAR GUILD

February
Gay Shira
Charlotte Butler
OPEN

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Feb 4 - Pam Copper
Feb 11 - Nancy Crum
Feb 18 - Kristie Yoak
Feb 25 - Shirley Huskey

RECEIPTS

TBA

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
33 BROADWAY STREET
SHELBY, OHIO 44875
PH 419-347-7675
EMAIL: FIRSTLUTHERANSHELBY@GMAIL.COM

OFFICE HOURS MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM TO NOON
PASTOR'S OPEN OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – WEDNESDAY
9AM TO NOON

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
COURTNEY WAFFEN, DIRECTOR ABC CENTER: 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: WEZNJIM@NEO.RR.COM, 419-295-3019

Website: FLCshelby.org Facebook: First Lutheran Shelby YouTube: Pastor Rus Yoak

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Office open 9-12	2 Office open 9-12	3
4 Adult Bible Study 8:45 am Worship 10 am Youth Group - TBA	5 Office open 9-12 Finance & ABC Committees	6 Church office open 9am- Noon SECOND TUESDAY WORSHIP & STUDY 6:00pm Council 7 pm	7 Office open 9-12 Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6 pm Bells 7 pm Quilting 9:00	8 Office open 9-12	9 Office open 9-12	10
11 Confirmation 8:45 am Worship 10 am Youth Group TBA SHEPHERDS PIE DINNER 11:00AM	12 Office open 9-12	13 Office open 9-12	14 Office open 9-12 Food Pantry 9-11:30 Choir 6 pm Bells 7 pm LENT SERVICE NOON & 6:00PM	15 Office open 9-12	16 Office Open 9-12	17 BREAKFAST 8:00-10:00AM
18 Adult Bible Study 8:45 am Worship 10am Youth Group TBA SOUP COOK-OFF FOLLOWING 10AM SERVICE	19 Office open 9-12 Meet Me on Monday - Diner 39, At Noon	20 Office open 9-12	21 Office open 9-12 Food Pantry 9- 11:30 Choir 6 pm Bells 7 pm	22 Office open 9-12	23 Office open 9-12	24
25 Confirmation 8:45 Worship 10 am Youth Group TBA	26 Office open 9-12	27 Office open 9-12	28 Office open 9-12	29 Office open 9-12	Office open 9-12	

SING TO HIM A NEW SONG; PLAY SKILLFULLY, AND SHOUT FOR JOY. PSALM 33.3