

First Lutheran Church

127 S. Columbus St. Galion, OH 44833

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Worship 10:00 am

Weekly Newsletter

9.10.26

Pastor's Ponderings



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"Make education a lifelong quest. Never stop learning. That is the best way to defer your student loan payments!"

My brother, Ryan, went to college for six years. But somewhere during those six years he decided that rather than do the thing we was going to school for (pharmacy) he'd rather teach other people to do the thing he was going to school for. So, he went to school for another six years to get his Ph.D. All throughout this time, his brother (that would be me) relentlessly mocked him, asking him if he would ever get a job.

About ten years after Ryan finally stopped going to school and got a job (he's a professor at the University of Findlay), the same brother who ridiculed him for his 10+ years in school (that would be me again) quit his job and—you guessed it—went back to school. Two years and some change later, I graduated from Luther Seminary and was ordained as a pastor.

Here's the thing—seminary taught me some stuff. But I am a different pastor now than I was three years ago because I continue to learn. By going to seminars, talking to other pastors, talking to you, my parishioners, preparing worship for the week, by writing a sermon (or even a "pondering" just like this one). Same with my brother—he's been done with "school" for over a decade, but the field of medicine changes constantly and with increasing speed—if he ever stops learning he'll have to stop teaching.

The psalmist writes:

*Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.*

*Give me understanding, that I may keep your
law and observe it with my whole heart.*

(Psalm 119:33-34)

The psalmist is already quite learned (who of us could write a 176-verse poem the likes of Psalm 119?). But he does not say, "I know God's law, and therefore I've got this." He says, instead, "Lord, keep teaching me."

If you assess your life and think, "Wow, I'm really terrible at keeping the laws of the Lord," first of all, join the club. But second, take heart, for even the psalmist—who I'm pretty sure knows the laws of the Lord—is praying for understanding so that he may follow the laws that he knows are good.

As Professor Rolf Jacobson explains, "Following God's ways requires prayer and willingness to learn throughout our lives." And I would add the Holy Spirit and Jesus.

We don't need to live perfect lives. Or know all the things. Instead, we pray that the Spirit would give us understanding, that we may

continue to learn the statutes of the Lord—and that through Christ we would be transformed to live according to God's will for us and for this world. Not to earn God's favor, but in response to the grace we have already received in Christ. A grace that is for us, and for our neighbor.

If you have comments or questions, would like to talk, or desire a visit, please call or email either me or the church office.

Peace,

Pastor Shawn Schneider

937-726-3831

pastor@flcgalion.com

This Week at First

Worship: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35

In-Person Worship

Sunday – September 13, 2026

8:00am - St. Paul Lutheran Church

10:00am - First Lutheran Church

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

3:15pm - Prayer Shawl Outreach

Friday, September 18, 2026

9:00am - "Men's Breakfast" at Lulu's in Bucyrus



Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN



We are praying for:

Kayla Bohland, Kevin McNeal, Joe Kokiko, Patty Owens, Tyler McMillan, Rhonda Breit, Clint and Barb Howe, and Doug May

Long Term Prayer List: Mr. Robert, Tonya McElree, Rick Stone, Pastor Tim Keeler, Joe Beaty, Marlene Leme, Chloe, Kaden Allarding, Haylee Lilly, Jean Henry, Tina Fuson, Ed Smith, Linda Kahler, and Bobbie Jo Seighman

Homebound, Assisted Living, or Limited

Mobility: Chuck Robinson, Betty Sargel, Jay DeNise, Jack Harpst, Jr., Millie Haas, Brenda Haas, Janet Hammermiller, Phyllis Straka, Fred Watkins, and Joyce Shearer

To add someone to our prayer list or prayer chain, call the church office or email us at pastor@flcgalion.com



Shannon Hadamuscin - September 14
Drew Bickert - September 14
Maddy Bickert - September 14

