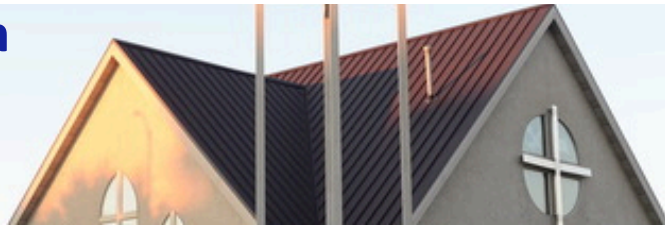


First Lutheran Church Newsletter



Sunday Service

20th Sunday after
Pentecost

With Pastor Schneider
9:30am Fellowship
10:00am Worship



*Everything is ready;
come to the
wedding banquet*

MATTHEW 22:4



This Week at First

Worship: 20th Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 25:1-9

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:1-9

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22:1-14

In-Person Worship

Sunday – October 11, 2026

8:00am - St. Paul Lutheran Church

10:00am - First Lutheran Church

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

5:00pm - Community Meal

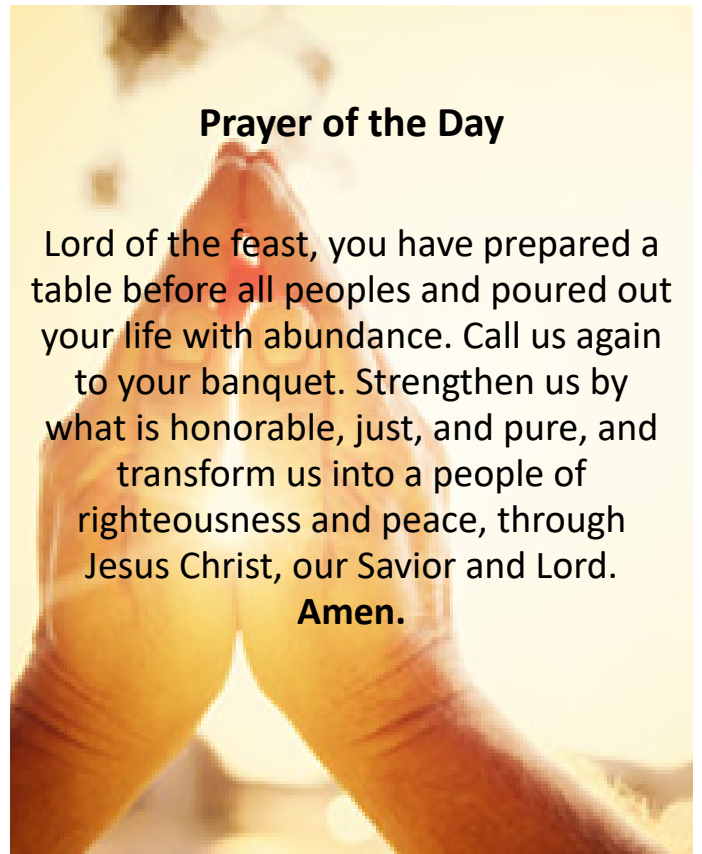
Friday, October 16, 2026

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

Prayer of the Day

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.





Pastor Shawn
Schneider

Ponderings on Last Sunday's Sermon



The Fruits We Bear

The so-called "Parable of the Wicked Tenants" (see Matthew 21:33-45) gets its name honestly - the tenants do, in fact, commit multiple brutal murders. To me, though, the title of this parable doesn't tell us nearly everything we need to know.

We are meant to understand the vineyard as Israel, God as the landowner, the slaves (who are one after another rejected and slaughtered) as Israel's prophets, and the son, who is also rejected and slaughtered by the tenants, as Jesus. And who are these "wicked" tenants? In Jesus' telling of the parable, they are the chief priests and Pharisees that he is both preaching to and about - and will soon hand him over to be killed. For too long, we Christians have used this parable, and ones like it, to excoriate the Jewish people. And for millennia, it has led to real, actual bloodshed against the Jewish people. Real, actual murder and death, the Holocaust just being one example. But Jesus isn't preaching against all Jewish people of his time and especially not all Jewish people of all times and all places. He is preaching against the corrupt leaders of that time who have rejected him as the Israel's Messiah. And against the corrupt leaders of previous generations who also ignored and killed the prophets.

Rather than focusing on Jesus' harsh condemnation of a small group of Jewish leaders from a really long time ago (and then incorrectly acting it out as Christians from ages past have done), perhaps we should listen to the "therefore" Jesus presents.

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be [...] given to a people that produces fruits. (Matthew 21:43) What kind of fruit do we, as followers of Jesus Christ, bear?

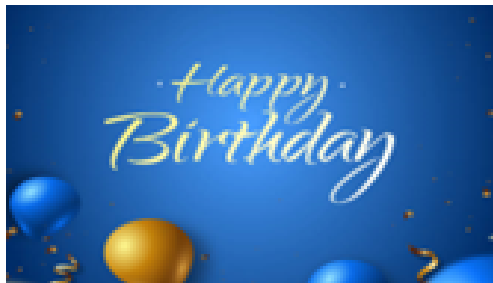
We are called to bear fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5:22) As opposed to works of the flesh: "sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing..." and more. (Galatians 5:19)

My hope is that I've taken the attention off the so-called "wicked tenants" by placing in front of ourselves a mirror that forces us to see ourselves as we are. It's easy to condemn the "other," but the mirror condemns us. I, of course, sometimes display fruits of the Spirit. And yet... the works of the flesh get the better of me every single day. Every time I lose my temper. Every time I engage in factionalism. Every time I... and it goes on and on and on.

But this isn't to say that we bear fruits of the Spirit just by trying harder. We bear "good fruit" when our vines are rooted in Jesus Christ. And as we mature in Christ, as does a vine in the vineyard, so does the fruit that we bear. Fruit from God's vineyard. For the world.

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

Peace,
Pastor Shawn Schneider
937-726-3831
pastor@flcgalion.com



Mitchell Whisler - October 11
Tim Groth - October 15
Julie Keyes - October 15
Abbie Shifley - October 16



Tuesday, October 13
5pm - 6pm



Donations of food always appreciated!
Your help also appreciated.

SERVE the LORD
with all your heart!

We are praying for:

Sue McElhatten, Phil Vanderkooi, Ashley (Cecil) Finley, Holly Bomer, Kayla Bohland, Kevin McNeal, Joe Kokiko, Patty Owens, Tyler McMillan, 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, and Fred Watkins

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



Talk To Us

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Galion, Ohio 44833

Puzzle of the Week

Z	I	M	N	P	G	X	N	W	P	F	L	E	C	I	N	K
G	Y	V	R	Y	G	X	C	R	A	O	F	U	A	V	P	V
K	V	F	L	A	O	T	W	O	S	R	S	O	U	L	O	G
V	A	D	G	N	O	A	P	D	T	E	H	P	A	T	H	S
L	L	Y	R	O	D	B	G	J	U	V	D	P	T	G	C	I
O	L	K	E	I	N	L	K	R	R	E	W	A	T	E	R	S
R	E	D	E	N	E	E	N	N	E	R	D	Y	L	O	V	E
D	Y	W	N	T	S	S	L	P	S	Q	Y	F	H	L	K	S
J	S	E	F	J	S	S	A	R	Q	Q	H	E	O	E	C	H
N	C	L	P	E	B	V	K	E	U	D	X	V	U	N	M	E
V	O	L	D	A	V	I	D	P	I	W	H	I	S	E	E	P
A	M	J	J	U	S	N	T	A	E	S	I	L	E	M	U	H
R	F	Q	S	M	T	K	J	R	T	V	X	C	U	I	Z	E
I	O	F	Y	Q	A	L	R	E	F	R	E	S	H	E	S	R
G	R	O	J	R	F	K	H	U	S	K	Y	I	X	S	H	D
H	T	D	Y	P	F	Y	U	L	R	H	P	S	A	L	M	X
T	Q	J	W	V	J	O	V	E	R	F	L	O	W	S	Y	E

overflows	refreshes	pastures	goodness	shepherd	prepare
forever	comfort	enemies	waters	valley	anoint
David	Psalm	paths	right	staff	house
dwell	table	quiet	green	evil	soul
love	Lord	rod			