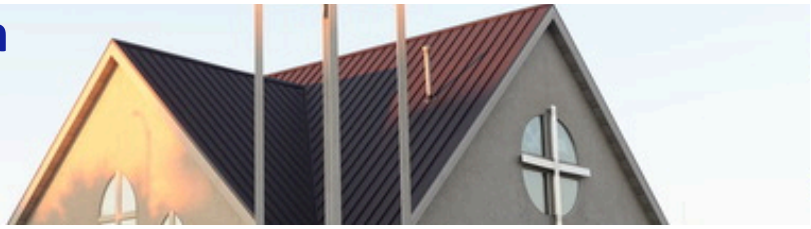
# First Lutheran Church Newsletter



## Sunday Service

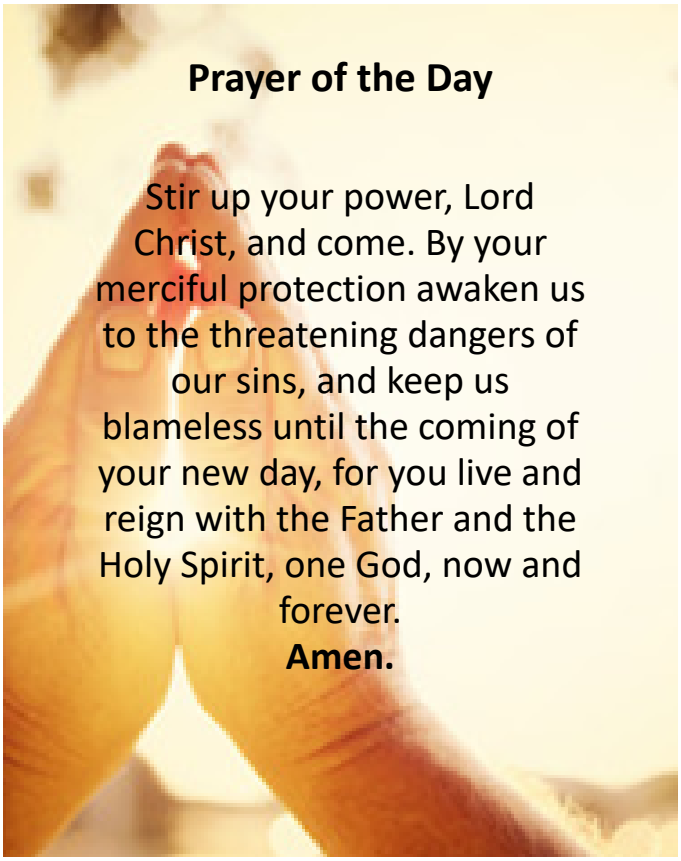
**First Sunday in Advent**

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




**<u>This Week at First</u>**

**Worship: First Sunday in Advent**
First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel Lesson: Mark 13:24-37
**<u>In-Person Worship</u>**
**<u>Sunday – November 29 , 2026</u>**
**8:00am** - St. Paul Lutheran Church
**10:00am** - First Lutheran Church
**Tuesday - December 1, 2026**
**3:00pm** - Prayer Shawl Outreach
**<u>Friday - December 4, 2026</u>**
**9:00am** - "Men's Breakfast" at Lulu's in Bucyrus



**Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
**Amen.**



**Pastor Shawn Schneider**

# Ponderings on Last Sunday's Sermon




## Sheep or Goat? Or the Wrong Question?

The sheep and the goats. The good and the bad. The righteous and the damned. You will struggle to find a starker contrast in all of scripture.

On the one hand, the righteous, in their sheepish humility, ask, “Me? Why what can you mean, Lord? When did we see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?” (Matt. 25:37-39, The Message)

And on the other hand (the left hand to be precise), the unrighteous double down on their goat-like stubbornness, demanding, “But when did we see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or in prison and didn’t help? Lies!” (Matt. 25:44, The Message)

These “good and evil,” “sheep and goat” tropes are great for storytelling—and for driving home a point. Many a fire and brimstone sermon have been punctuated with the threat, “Then those ‘goats’ will be herded to their eternal doom, but the ‘sheep’ to their eternal reward.” (Matt. 25:48)

But I must ask, how many of us know someone who is entirely good. To put it differently, one who always feeds the hungry and shows up for the overlooked and ignored? Always? Every single time? Without fail?

Or entirely evil? Do you know someone who goes out of their way to crush the hungry and poor and imprisoned? Always?

Simul justus et peccator is the fancy Latin way of saying we are saints and sinners. None of us, I don’t think, is entirely good. Or entirely bad. We are some weird sheep-goat hybrid. And I'm not sure what to do with that, and with this very difficult passage of scripture, other than remind us of the law, as given by Jesus:

Show up for the hungry and thirsty and homeless and cold and sick and imprisoned.

And the promise. The good news that all the fire and brimstone sermons seem to miss:

*“Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.”* (Matt. 25:40) In other words, Jesus is already here, with us. Which shouldn’t surprise us, especially as Christmas draws near: “And they shall name him Emmauel, which means, “God is with us.” (Matthew 1:23)

So, what are you? Sheep or Goat? Sinner or Saint? Or perhaps all of the above? But I think the more important question isn't "what are we?", but "How might we listen to Jesus' command?" In following this command, we come closer to Jesus and the neighbor. And this is the command and the promise all rolled into one.

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

**We are praying for:**
Clayton Smith, Mike Korbas, Sue McElhatten, Phil Vanderkooi, Holly Bomer, Kayla Bohland, and Kevin McNeal

Long Term Prayer List: Joe Kokiko, Patty Owens, Joe Chiko, Mr. Robert, Tonya McElree, Rick Stone, Pastor Tim Keeler, Joe Beaty, Marlene Leme, Chloe, Kaden Allerding, 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




December 4 - Mike Laughery







**Talk To Us**

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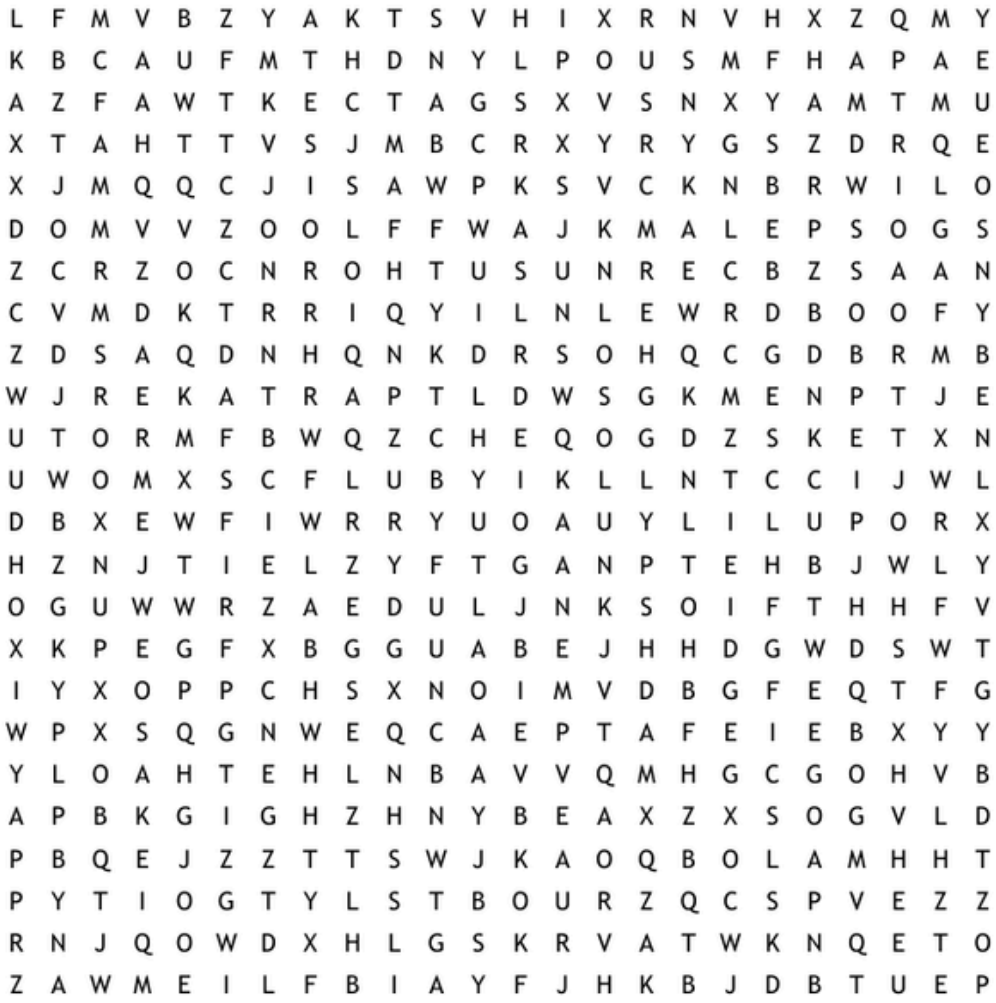
# 1 Corinthians

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corinthians | evangelism | partaker | fellow | gospel |
| things | become | means | Paul | sake |
| some | save | that | have | weak |
| for | may | men | all | the |
| do | by | so | To | |