

First Lutheran Church



127 S. Columbus St. Galion, OH 44833

419-468-3107

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Worship 10:00 am

Weekly Newsletter

10.10.24

Pastor's Ponderings

Preserve, Part with, Prune, & Pioneer

I counted our sticky notes—60* total! The reason for the asterisk by the 60 is because while 45 of them were for the things we are already doing (or could, perhaps, do more of), 15 of them are “new” ideas for how we might connect with others in the congregation or beyond our faith community. And there are some great ideas—and I’m sure we will brainstorm more in the future—but, for now, we are not ready to “pioneer.” We are at the stage of evaluating our current ministries, both inward and outward looking, and deciding what we are being called to do with what we currently do! That’s where “preserve,” “part with,” and “prune” enter the conversation:

[Jesus said] I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. [...] Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear from by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. (John 15:1,4)

Branches bearing ample fruit ought to be preserved as they are. Unfortunately, when branches are withering and dead and no longer bear fruit, we must part with them for

the health of the vine. And then there are the branches that bear fruit but have more to give—these must be pruned.

Thanks to you and your participation in the sticky note project, we have a healthy list of ways that we connect with one another within our faith community and to those beyond this faith community. Now we have to get our hands dirty; we must engage in the difficult work of gardening. Yes, I know that in Jesus’ metaphor the Father is the vinegrower. But I don’t think that gives us permission to sit back and wait to be either preserved, parted with, or pruned, because if we do this, we will most certainly be parted with. (Trust me, you don’t want to be the “parted with” branch. See John 15:6. Something about being thrown into the fire and burned.) God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is active in the here and now, in this world, and in this faith community. And our call is to be active with the vinegrower, the Father, by abiding in the vine, the Son, and watching and listening and seeking the movement of the Holy Spirit—and then acting.

So, I ask you to think back. What did you write on your little sticky note, and which “P” do you think it falls under? Is it something that bears abundant fruit and ought to be preserved as-is, no changes needed? Has its time as a ministry within this faith community come and gone? Does it no longer bear fruit, and should it be parted with? Or is it something that we do but we don’t do well or ought to do more of or in a different way? In other words, should it be pruned? Please, put some serious thought into these questions. And thank you for providing your input thus far. When we engage in this work together,

when we allow the Father to work on us and when we abide in the Son, the Holy Spirit is present, moving in and through this faith community. This is and must continue to be, therefore, the work of the entire community. So I repeat from previous ponderings:

THESE ARE NOT RHETORICAL QUESTIONS. PLEASE... THINK, PONDER, AND RESPOND! Send me an e-mail: pastor@flcgalion.com. Call me: 937-726-3831. (Or text to the same number.) Arrange for a visit or a conversation over a cup of coffee. Because I am convinced that if we, together as a faith community, engage in this work and invite the Spirit to guide us, we will build upon our way of BEING with one another and in so doing will enliven our lives together in Christ. We will bear more fruit. And we, and our community, will be transformed.

Pastor Shawn

Thank you to Pastor Will Haggis, pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Van Wert, Ohio, for providing me the "Preserve, Prune, Pioneer" language and framework.



This Week at First

Worship: 21st Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Second Lesson: Hebrews 4:12-16

Gospel: Mark 10:17-31

In-Person Worship

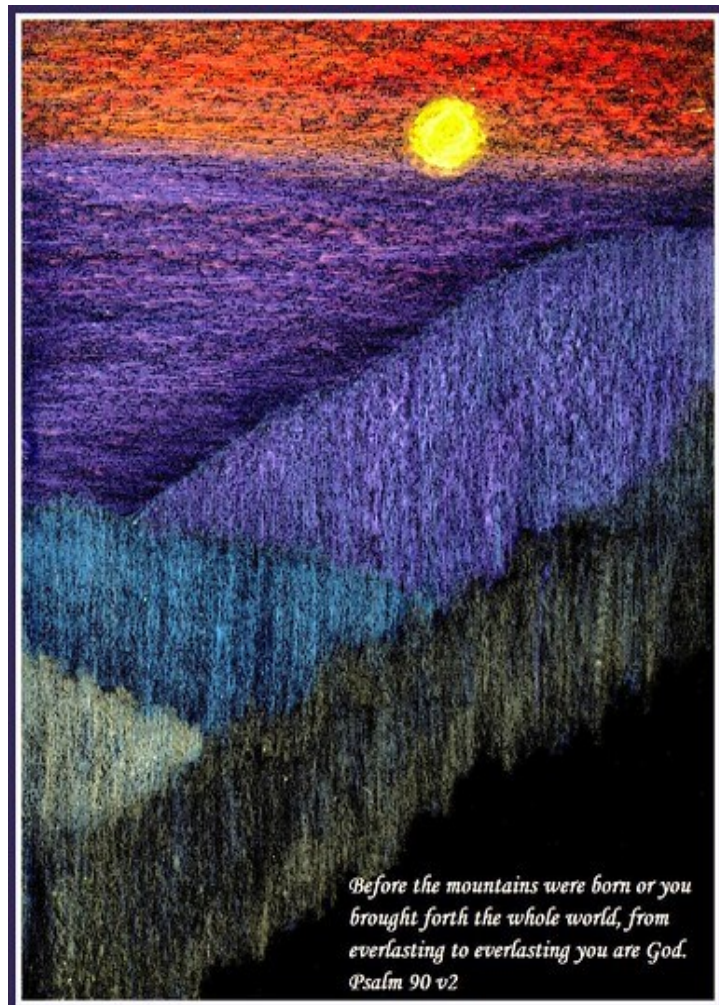
Sunday – October 13, 2024

8:30am Worship at St. Paul in NR

10:00am Worship at First Lutheran

Wednesday - October 16, 2024

Bible Study - **2:00pm** at St. Paul in NR



*Before the mountains were born or you
brought forth the whole world, from
everlasting to everlasting you are God.
Psalm 90 v2*



Aleaha Baldwin - October 14

Tim Growth - October 15

Mason Saurers - October 16

Abigail Shifley - October 16

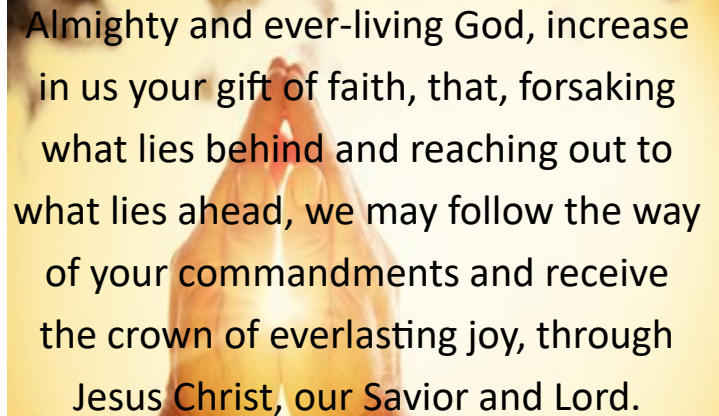
SPOOKTACULAR is Thursday, October 31, 5:00pm - 7:00pm at Galion Middle School. We will be collecting plain M&M (fun packs) to hand out during trick or treat. The donation box will be located in the gathering area. Come join the family fun!!



Grief Share Fall Session continues on Monday, October 14th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The sessions will be at St. Paul United Methodist Church located at 746 Cherry St., Galion. For more information and registration, call Mary at (740)-396-2522, Cathy at (419)-571-5948 or the church office at (419)-468-4557.

Grief is not something you suddenly get over, forget or move on from. Too often, people tend to tuck their grief away instead of allowing it to do its intended work. Whether your bereavement experience is recent or not so recent, Grief Share is an opportunity to be around people in a confidential and understanding environment where you will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family members or a friend.

Prayer Of The Day



Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



Chuck Robinson, Haylee Lilly, Troy Cramer and family, Wylea Lightfoot-Smith, Robyn, Paige, Carl Milligan, Phil Vanderkooi, Sandy Alley, Scott, Jean Henry, Stephanie & Nathan Shimer, Tina Fuson, Kathy, Barb Keyes, Jane Mobberly, Duane Long, Ken Bodkins, Robert Grubaugh, Toni Lovely, Ed Smith, Peggy Baltosser, Bobbie Jo Seighman, Nancy Bailey, Jim Harpst, Karen Holwager, Bill Roe, Linda Kahler, Wilma Krider, Doll Cass, Phyllis Straka, Jay DeNise, Millie and Brenda Haas, Fred & Betty Sargel, Mary Lou Griebing, Jean Hayes, Janet Hammermiller and FLC Outreach Ministry. To add someone to our prayer list or prayer chain, call the church office or email us at pastor@flcgalion.com

Puzzles Of The Week

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

GRACE
WEAKNESS
HOLD
TESTING
SIN
UNDERSTAND
BELIEVE
THRONE
SON OF GOD
NEED
HEAVEN
ENTER
HELP
HIGH PRIEST
MERCY
BOLDLY
FIRMLY
JESUS

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

Evangelist
One Spirit
Gentleness
Knowledge
Diligence
Doctrine
Shepherd
One Hope
Humility
Prisoner
Teacher
Prophet
Apostle
Pastor
Faith
Unity
Saint
Grace
Body

