

First Lutheran Church



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Worship 10:00 am

Weekly Newsletter

10.31.24

Pastor's Ponderings

Is it Over Yet?

"It is finished!" Are these Jesus' words as he hung on the cross? Or the words that I could include in this pondering space next week when reflecting on the 2024 Presidential election? If 2020 is any indication, chances are no, I will not be able to say "it is finished" about this horrible, grinding, soul-sucking election cycle next Thursday. And even when it is eventually "finished," there will already be candidates jockeying for position and begging donors to fund their 2028 political ambitions, when that election supplants this one as "The Most Important Election in the History of America" and we do it all over again. Except by then the rhetoric will be louder and more hate filled. Everything will somehow be more dire than it is now. There will continue to be threats—and instances—of politically motivated violence. And if we've learned anything in the four years since the 2020 election, this cycle of absurdity will never be "finished." So, I must ask my fellow Christians here in the United States: Is the best we can hope for really just a pause in the hate?

That depends, of course, on the source of our hope, which begs the question, "In what, or whom, do you find hope?" And I mean real, actual hope?

On the cross, just before he breathed his last, Jesus proclaimed, "'It is finished.'" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." (John 19:30) These words, "It is finished," can also be translated "It has been completed." These are not the words of a man saying, "My life is over." Jesus is saying, "The work that I, the Word made flesh, have come to this earth to do, is finished. Done. Completed." And if humanity has proven anything in this election cycle by demonstrating pretty much every possible shortcoming and sin imaginable it is that we could NEVER hope to complete this work. And why? Because we are a broken and sinful people. And despite all this, despite our shortcomings, our failure to be in right relationship with our neighbors, God still loves us. So much so that God gave his only Son that we might not perish but be in right relationship with God. Forever! As in even after our death. (see John 3:16)

My dear siblings in Christ, as important as the 2024 election might seem—yes, elections certainly matter and have real-world consequences—the fate of God's kingdom does NOT hang in the balance on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. We are voting on the fate of a worldly kingdom, but rest assured that no vote we or anyone else casts—on Tuesday or ever for that matter—will be of consequence in bringing God's kingdom into being. Because God's kingdom has already won.

Jesus Christ has already defeated sin, death, the devil and all his empty promises through his own life, death, and resurrection. He inaugurated the new and present age, and God's kingdom will fully come into being. In God's time. When we pray "Thy kingdom come," and we immediately follow it with

“Thy will be done,” we acknowledge that God’s kingdom will come—but in God’s time, not ours. “But about that day or hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven nor the Son,” says Jesus, “but only the Father.” (Matthew 24:36)



God’s kingdom will come in God’s time—and in God’s way. A political contest will never bring about God’s kingdom because this is simply not how God works. Jesus won his victory on the cross—it is on the cross where he was enthroned! My dear siblings in Christ, we are of this world, which is why we vote. We are called to see where God is present and moving and active in this world—so yes, I encourage you to go vote! Vote early and vote often as I always say! (Kidding, of course.)

But after 2024 comes 2028, 2032, and on and on and on—that is until Christ returns, and God’s kingdom fully comes into being—and until then keep voting. But please—please, please please remember this—we are not of this world. And perhaps the best thing we can do to bring God’s kingdom more fully into being NOW is to keep (or perhaps start) loving the neighbor. Even the ones with the wrong signs in their yards. And find comfort and hope in knowing that “It is finished!” God has already prevailed. And when all else passes away—including our earthly kingdoms—God WILL have the last word. Go now, and proclaim this good news to a country—and a world—that so desperately needs to hear it.

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 or
pastor@flcgalion.com

This Week at First

Worship: All Saints Sunday

First Lesson: Isaiah 25:6-9

Second Lesson: Revelation 21:1-6a

Gospel: John 11:32-44

In-Person Worship

Sunday – November 3, 2024

8:30am Worship at St. Paul in NR

10:00am Worship at First Lutheran

Tuesday - November 5, 2024

Prayer Shawl Outreach at **3:15pm**

At Millcreek Nursing Facility

Wednesday - November 6, 2024

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





David Dinkel - November 3
 Tim Bartholomew - November 4
 Linda Grey - November 5

5:00 PM Wednesday, NOV 13



MENU
 Grilled
 Cheese
 Sandwich,
 Vegetable
 Soup & Fruit
 Cup

**Donations of food
 always appreciated!
 Your help also appreciated.**

**Sign up sheet
 in gathering area.**

**SERVE the LORD
 with all your heart!**



Grief Share Fall Session continue on Mondays, 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 God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Jean Hayes, Jo Swain, Chuck Robinson, Haylee Lilly, Troy Cramer and family, Robyn, Paige, Phil Vanderkooi, Sandy Alley, Scott, Jean Henry, Tina Fuson, Barb Keyes, Jane Mobberly, Duane Long, Ken Bodkins, Robert Grubaugh, Ed Smith, Bobbie Jo Seighman, Nancy Bailey, Jim Harpst, Karen Holwager, Bill Roe, Linda Kahler, Doll Cass, Phyllis Straka, Jay DeNise, Millie and Brenda Haas, Fred & Betty Sargel, Mary Lou Griebing, 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

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

RESURRECTION	TREASURE	BELIEVES
WHOEVER	BROTHER	BURIED
CHRIST	MARTHA	WORLD
JESUS	LORD	LIVE
LIFE	RISE	SON



Just a reminder

November 3, 2024 clocks fall back 1hr.

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

salvation	blessing	ancient
hearts	ascend	mighty
strong	Jacob	glory
gates	earth	pure
seek	holy	God