



First Lutheran Church

127 S. Columbus St. Galion, OH 44833

419-468-3107

flcgalion@gmail.com

Worship 10:00 am

Weekly Newsletter

9.4.25

Pastor's Ponderings

What's in a Name?

Once every three years, us folks who use the Revised Common Lectionary—that's what tells us which passages of Scripture to read when—read (almost) the entire book of Philemon. And that time is once again upon us; this Sunday we will read Philemon 1-21. These are verses, not chapters. There is only one chapter in this book—a short letter written by Paul to his “brother” (in Christ) Philemon, the wealthy head of a house church. The subject of the letter is Onesimus—another “brother” (in Christ) Paul has come to know while he is imprisoned.

Who is Onesimus, exactly, and what is his relationship to Philemon? Onesimus is the “useful” one—that's what his name means. And he is useful to Philemon—or least he was. Onesimus was Philemon's slave. Paul is writing this letter to arrange for Onesimus' return to Philemon. Wait, what? The Apostle Paul is returning a runaway slave?

Unfortunately, this is how some (including pro-slavery American Christians in the 18th and 19th centuries) abused this letter. But Paul isn't sending Philemon a slave. He's sending him a brother—“no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother.” (Philemon 16)

Further, playing on the name Onesimus, that is, “useful,” Paul subtly jabs, “Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and me.” (Philemon 11)

As your slave, he was “useless.” Now, made your brother in Christ—liberated by Christ—only now is he freed to live into his name. Freed to be Paul's brother. Philemon's brother. Our brother.

Might I suggest that if we are using Scripture to keep our brothers and sisters—our siblings in Christ—“enslaved” in real or metaphorical ways, we're doing it wrong. The good news of Jesus Christ is liberating. Both for us, for all our neighbors, and all our siblings in Christ. Otherwise, how can we call it “good news?”

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

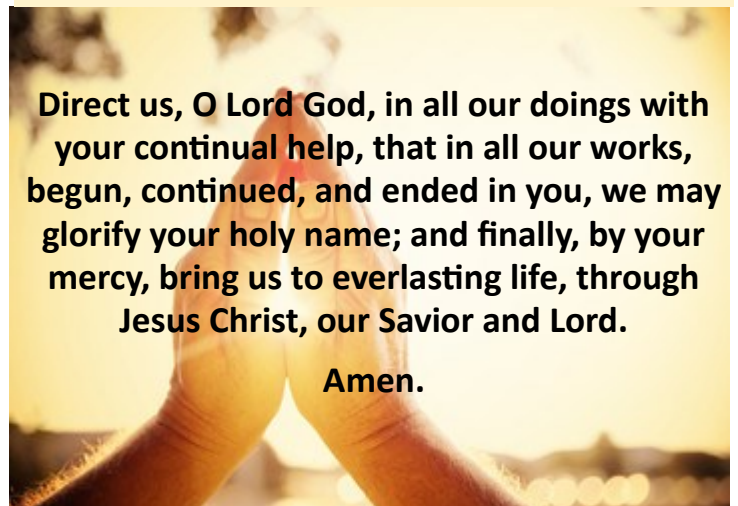
937-726-3831 or

pastor@flcgalion.com

Prayer of the Day

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



This Week at First

Worship: 13th Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Second Lesson: Philemon 1-21

Gospel Lesson: Luke 14:25-33



In-Person Worship

Sunday – September 7, 2025

9:00am - Worship at St. Paul Lutheran Church in North Robinson

10:00am - Worship at First Lutheran Church in Galion

11:15am - Worship & Music Meeting

Tuesday - September 9, 2025

5:00pm - Community Dinner

Thursday - September 11, 2025

5:30pm - Committee Fellowship

6:00pm - Committee Night

7:00pm - Council Meeting



We are praying for:

Doll Cass, Jack Swartz, Phyllis Straka, Jack Harpst, Jr., Dave Kahler

Long Term Prayer List: Teresa Boggs, Joyce Corwin, Judy Rock, Dave Gerfen, AJ Rinaldi, Kaden Allarding, Linda Kahler, Haylee Lilly, Scott, Sandy Alley, Jean Henry, Tina Fuson, Ed Smith, Bobbie Jo Seighman

Homebound, Assisted Living, or Limited

Mobility: Chuck Robinson, Jean Hayes, Jim Harpst, Phyllis Straka, Jay DeNise, Brenda Haas, Mary Lou Griebeling, Janet Hammermiller, and Fred Watkins.

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



Tuesday, September 9th

Bingo Dinner

5pm - 6pm



Come and join us for a meal, fellowship and fun!

Donations of food always appreciated!

Your help also appreciated.

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



Shannon Hadamuscin - September 14

Drew Bickert - September 14

Maddy Bickert - September 14

Christine Burns - September 18

Jo Swain - September 20