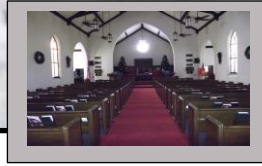


# FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

January 2022



Volume 25 No. 1

## *First Things First...*

Dear Friends in Christ,

This letter arrived recently, expressing appreciation for the support given to the LCMC on a churchwide level. It also relates some of the ministries which the LCMC as a whole underwrites. I ask that you read the letter and, if so led by the Holy Spirit, pray for the various ministries of the association.

On a personal note: May the Lord our God protect you from every danger, harm or evil, granting you that peace that exceeds human comprehension and give you the assurance that He is with you at all times and in all places!

The LORD bless you with love, joy, health and prosperity throughout 2022!!!

In the Master's service, Pastor Grier

December 2021

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. As I write this end of year letter to you, the words that continue to go through my mind are simply: Thank You! Thank you for your love for the Lord. Thank you for loving, connecting, and caring for the people of God you've been called to serve. Thank you for all the ways you and your congregation are praying for, reaching out to, and loving and serving those in your community who don't yet know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

This past year has been one, in which, we have experienced continued growth in our association. Receiving many new congregations and planting new others. Receiving new pastors and seminarians. Revitalizing and preparing to launch new districts and fellowships. In all this and more, God has been at work impacting people with His love and His power, here in the United States, and overseas.

As you can imagine, your financial support for the association has been important to us. Your finances have enabled our small but extremely dedicated staff (only six staff members for almost 1,000 congregations) to serve our congregations in several different ways, that according to your testimonies, have been helpful and timely. You've also enabled us to serve LCMC congregations and leaders by working with and training district and fellowship coordinators and leaders, who in turn, have been reaching out to serve the congregations and leaders in their regions.

This past year your finances have enabled us to develop and launch a new ministry that is going to be especially helpful to smaller congregations and leaders, to church planters, and to our

mid-large size churches and leaders as well. This new ministry is called *The LeaderCare Initiative*. This ministry is going to enable us to serve you at the grassroots, regional, district, and fellowship levels by loving, connecting, and caring for leaders – ordained and lay. Leaders who are being loved, connected, and cared for are helped to grow in health and maturity, which will increase their effectiveness as leaders. We are also at work developing more ministries and services that will be especially important to our smaller congregations in the next 2-3 years.

Your financial support is enabling us to provide all of this as well as the many administrative services that make having an association possible. It is also helping us to offer various training seminars throughout the country, a well-trained intentional interim ministry, support and training for call committees, conflict resolution training and services, and much more.

Thank you for your financial support. Rest assured we are very careful how the financial resources entrusted to the association are being used. Thank you for your generosity this past year and in the years to come. Amen!

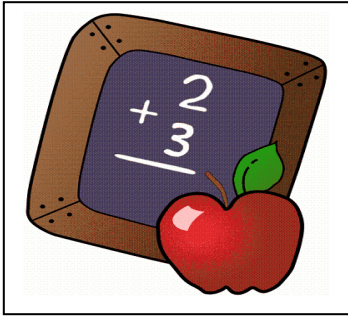
In God’s Unshakeable Love,

Rev. Michael Bradley  
LCMC Service Coordinator

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### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE JANUARY 2022

Date	Reading	Date	Reading
1	Psalm 42	17	Psalm 61-63
2	Psalm 43	18	Psalm 64-65
3	Psalm 44	19	Psalm 66-67
4	Psalm 45	20	Psalm 68
5	Psalm 46	21	Psalm 69
6	Psalm 47	22	Psalm 70-71
7	Psalm 48	23	Psalm 72
8	Psalm 49	24	Psalm 73
9	Psalm 50	25	Psalm 74
10	Psalm 51	26	Psalm 75-76
11	Psalm 52	27	Psalm 77
12	Psalm 53-54	28	Colossians 1
13	Psalm 55	29	Colossians 2
14	Psalm 56	30	Colossians 3
15	Psalm 57-58	31	Colossians 4
16	Psalm 59-60		



# First School And Day Care



The First School has 115 children. We have been blessed this year. However, this year has been a challenging one. We have been in preparation for our re-certification with Texas Rising Star. As a school we have come a long way, but I still believe we have a long way to go. I really believe God has a plan to expand and grow us past what we can imagine. I am excited to see what this new year will bring! I have faith that God will provide more than we can ask. To God Be the Glory, The Best Is Yet to Come!

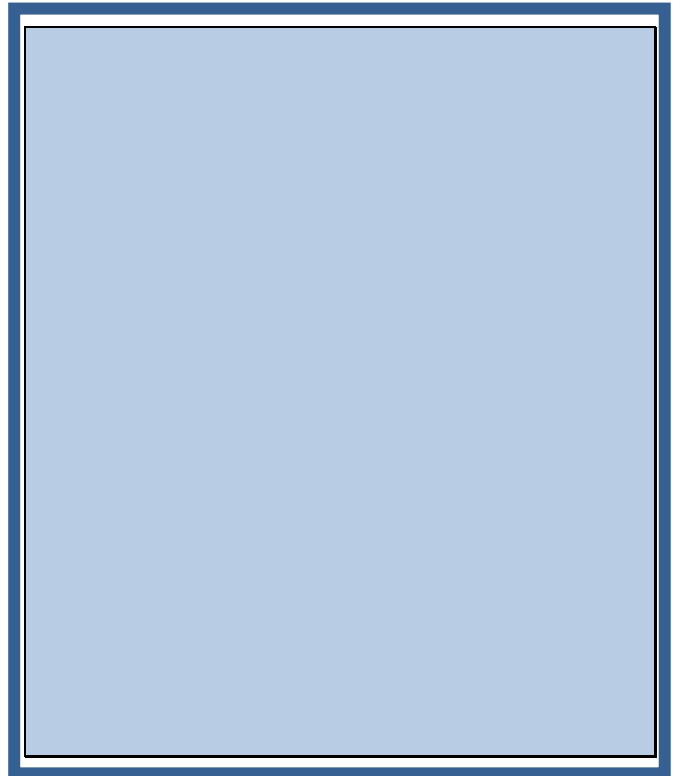
Many Blessings,  
Bree Joines  
First School Director

**First School Board Meeting  
Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.**

## **Manna Meals Record**

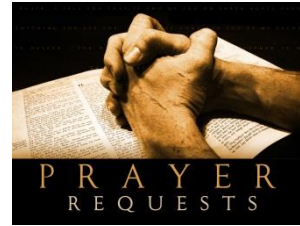
During the year 2021, local teams who participated served over 21,000 meals – compared to the past years average of over 7,000 meals provided annually (even 2020).

Each Manna Meals evening, teams served over 250 meals. What a response to helping your neighbor who is in need!



## JANUARY READINGS

- 01/02 Genesis 45:16-28, Psalm 44:9-16, Romans 6:1-14, Mark 1:1-11
- 01/09 Genesis 46:1-15, Psalm 44:17-22, Romans 6:15-23, Mark 1:21-20
- 01/16 Genesis 46:16-27, Psalm 44:23-26, Romans 7:1-6, Mark 1:21-34
- 01/23 Genesis 46:28-47:12, Psalm 45:1-6, Romans 7:7-12, Mark 1:35-45
- 01/30 Genesis 47:13-26, Psalm 45:7-11, Romans 7:13-8:1, Mark 2:1-12

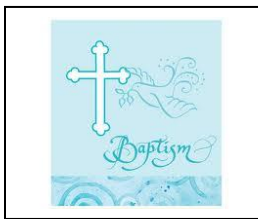


- 01/02 Becky Sample
- 01/03 Sarah Langston
- 01/08 Nora Hollingsworth
- 01/09 Helen Johnson
- 01/09 Kirk Marek
- 01/10 Landon Thane
- 01/13 Kalin Christenberry
- 01/15 Everly Orsak
- 01/16 Sarah Thane
- 01/18 Sheila Miller
- 01/20 Odis Newton
- 01/21 Dorothy Atchetee
- 01/27 Cathy Schoenfield
- 01/30 Rachel Hernandez
- 01/30 Cindy Mathews

**Our FLC Family**

- Dorothy Atchetee
- Harlo & Rhonda Achtetee
- Charles Bard
- Ron Chambles
- Lynda Christenberry
- Nora Hollingsworth
- Helen Kight
- Marilyn Kight
- Kim & Larry Ledwig
- John Nelson
- Odis Newton
- Becky Sample
- Ruth Speckels

**Friends of FLC**



*List will be cleared on the 1<sup>st</sup> in January, April, July and October. Please help us stay current; call the office with changes or additions.*

- 01/03 Karen Kight
- 01/04 Ashlyn Hanna
- 01/04 Angelina Tijerina
- 01/04 Gabriella Tijerina
- 01/18 Jake Herrington
- 01/25 Claudia Wilfert



**PRAY FOR OUR  
LOVED ONES  
IN THE MILITARY**  
  
Jake Barosh  
U.S. Armed Forces

**WE'RE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US**



OR



- 01/25 James & Diane Stewart
- 01/26 Ted & Cathy Schoenfield

Office hours: Tues & Thurs: 8:30am - 4:30pm  
Wed: 8:30am – 12:00pm

Phone: 979-543-5847  
Email: [office@firstlutheranec.com](mailto:office@firstlutheranec.com)



**COUNCIL MEETING**  
Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

**Pastor Clyde Grier**  
Phone: 979-541-6173

## FLCEC Manna Meals Team

Thank you to our members who have been faithful in providing food for meals and also serving at Manna Meals on behalf of our First Lutheran Team! Our team will serve on Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.

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### *Church Office Closed*

The church office will be closed the week of December 27-31.

### **Flower Chart**

The new Flower Chart for 2022 is available for you to choose your special dates. Please sign up for the Sundays when you would like to provide flowers for our service!

### **End of Year Giving**

**All donations must be in the church office by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> in order to receive credit for 2021. All contributions received Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> or later will be credited to 2022, regardless of the date on the check.**

## *Thank You!*

*As 2021 comes to an end and a new year begins we want to say "thank you" to Helen Kight for her faithfulness as organist for all our worship services throughout this last year (and the over 50 years she has played for First Lutheran)!*

*We appreciate all who have volunteered and helped in many ways this year - our Manna Meals Team, those who have been faithful in their monthly duties, Mr. Chamblis for the care of the Cemetery, the Church Council, and First School Board and Bree Joines for the guidance of First School!*

*We look forward to the new year with hope as we await what it will bring!*

**A = Always**

**S = Say**

**A = A**

**P = Prayer**



## WOMEN OF THE WORD

**WOW Food Drive**  
Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, January 30, 2022. We will have our annual meeting following lunch that day. Milton Johnson is making stew and there will be a sign-up sheet for sides and desserts.

## **LCMC Three Days of Prayer**

**January 4-6, 2022**

### **Day One: January 4**

This is a day focused on **confession**. We have made our lives, our relationships—and even the church—in our own image. We confess that the church belongs to Jesus and not to us. We gather to lay down our pride, our sin and our agenda and ask the Lord of the church for forgiveness, which He gives freely and with mercy.

### **Day Two: January 5**

This is a day of **petition**. Pray for your congregation, pastor, leaders, Sunday School teachers, Confirmation leaders, adult Bible study and small group leaders. Pray for those in hospital and nursing home ministries. Pray for all those connected to your church that they might know God's redeeming love for all in Christ.

### **Day Three: January 6**

This is a day for **vision**. Pray that the Holy Spirit will again move through the hearts and minds of leaders and pastors that God's vision for His church might be revealed and fulfilled. This is a time of prayer for renewal, revival and encouragement. Pray for God's vision.



# January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 <i>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion</i>	3	4 - - Three - -	5 - - Days of -	6 - - Prayer -	7	1/8
9 <i>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM</i>	10	11 <i>First School Board Meeting 5PM</i>	12	13	14 <i>Annual Reports due</i>	15
16 <i>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion</i>	17	18 <i>Newsletter Items Due</i>	19	20 <i>Church Council Meeting 6PM</i>	21	22
23 <i>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM</i>	24	25	26	27	28	19
30 <i>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM Annual Congregational Meeting</i>	31 <i>FLCEC Manna Meals Team serves</i>					

## January Responsibilities

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Daniel Wilfert  
**SEXTON:** David Kight  
**USHERS:** Odis Newton, Alvin Yackel  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Billie Jean Bram, Cori Koudela  
 Kim Ledwig

### READER

2<sup>nd</sup> Cathy Schoenfield  
 9<sup>th</sup> Diane Stewart  
 16<sup>th</sup> Helen Johnson  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Ty Schoenfield  
 30<sup>th</sup> Kirk Marek

If you are unable to serve on your date,  
 please find someone to take your place.



## JANUARY FLOWER CALENDAR

3<sup>rd</sup> Open  
 10<sup>th</sup> Open  
 17<sup>th</sup> James & Sheila Herrington  
 24<sup>th</sup> Open  
 31<sup>st</sup> Open

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

304 Oscar  
El Campo, TX 77437  
979-543-5847

Email: [office@firstlutheranec.com](mailto:office@firstlutheranec.com)

ESTABLISHED FEB 1893

*Worshipping Christ and Sharing  
the Word for over a century.*

**Clyde Grier, Pastor**  
**Helen Marie Kight, Organist**  
**Christine Richter, Office Manager**  
**Bree Joines, Director of First School**

**January**

Join us on **FACEBOOK** or check us out at  
[www.FIRSTLUTHERANEC.COM](http://www.FIRSTLUTHERANEC.COM)

*CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS: Sheila Herrington, Milton Johnson, David Kight, Kirk Marek, Cindy Mathews,  
Jimmy Nielsen & Cathy Schoenfield*

OUR NEWSLETTER  
CAN BE FOUND ON  
OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.FIRSTLUTHERANEC.COM](http://WWW.FIRSTLUTHERANEC.COM)



**Join us for our Annual Meeting  
on Sunday morning, January 30<sup>th</sup>!**

**Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.**

**Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.**

**Our Annual Congregational  
meeting will follow lunch in  
the Fellowship Hall.**