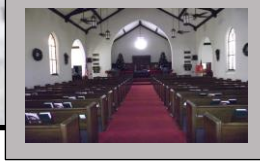


FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

January 2023



Volume 26 No. 1

First Things First

Or should it read: First Time First?

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...

Ecclesiastes 3:1

The new year is so frequently connected to a restart. On January 1st we are supposed to make resolutions for improving our life, our health, our finances, our relationships, and intentions as we run into the paradox of never having enough time.

Never enough

The hurrier I go, the behinder I get.

There's never enough time to do a job right, but there's always time to do it over. I recall these two sayings from my childhood. Whenever a task failed to achieve the standards my father expected, I would hear one of those sentences reminding me to take the care and spend the time necessary for the chore to be done right.

God "owns" time

At creation, the Creator set time in motion by the rising and setting of the sun and moon. As a beginning, Lord created light to overcome the darkness (the nothingness, the emptiness) that existed. Subsequently, on Day Four of creation, he brought forth the sun and the moon for the purpose of being "markers or signs" for days and nights and seasons. Since he made time, God owns time. What he owns he can use in whatever manner he deems best.

As the Lord of time, he uses it To accomplish his will., Therefore he can make the statement that makes no sense and no comprehension in our intellect. He is free and fully capable of declaring that a day in his sight is as one thousand years and one thousand years or as a day. In our limited capacity to understand this saying, we confess that it is a description of his oversight of all history, always seeing the panorama of time From the beginning of this world's creation until and beyond the creation of the eternal new heaven and new earth. Within those parameters he numbers the days of our lives. We may not see his dominion over our days as fair. However, he assures us that every day we live is a gift from him. He also declares that the end of our days is for our blessing and benefit. Thus, we do not question or argue when he calls us to his presence and simultaneously, we pray for the end of days at the coming of our Lord Jesus.

In the fullness...

Every facet of the world's drama had to be set so the Messiah could accomplish his mission. We read this in Galatians where Paul writes: *When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.* The father not only had

the events and kingdoms necessary for Messiah's birth but also all things were set for his crucifixion and our redemption. Throughout the history of Israel, a remnant of faithful men and women can be found who are looking for Messiah's birth. Yahweh (YHWH) gave signs that the attentive and the obedient could recognize so there would be anticipation. Simeon and Anna were two of those who anticipated the coming of the Messiah. Their stories (Luke 2) reveal the hope and expectation held by those who loved the Lord, were familiar with the promises and prophecies the Lord preserved in his Word. The same fullness of time and the signs of Christ's return are present that the faithful may continue and excited anticipation of that final day.

No one knows

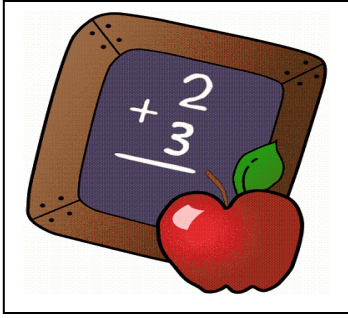
The mystery concerning the day or the hour, when his second advent occurs, remains the secret known only by the Father. There are signs that cause us to anticipate his imminent return. The attentive and obedient are watching and waiting expectantly. We must be ready always for two will be in the field one will be taken the other left behind. Two will be in the house one will be taken and the other left behind. Consider the parable of the ten virgins. Five were ready for the bridegroom's return; five were not. Do you know the signs that accompany Jesus' return? Will you be ready for that day when he comes? Are you ready today should this be the day? Only you can answer those questions. If any doubts remain in your heart in mind regarding the next momentous event of time, please contact me or better yet come to worship on Sunday mornings and receive the preparation necessary to be ready.

Remember this, Jesus loves you and so do I. Pastor Grier

+ + + + + +

**BIBLE READING SCHEDULE
JANUARY 2023**

1	Daniel 7	17	Hosea 8
2	Daniel 8	18	Hosea 9
3	Daniel 9	19	Hosea 10
4	Daniel 10	20	Hosea 11
5	Daniel 11	21	Hosea 12
6	Daniel 12	22	Hosea 13-14
7	2 Peter 1	23	1 John 1
8	2 Peter 2	24	1 John 2
9	2 Peter 3	25	1 John 3
10	Hosea 1	26	1 John 4
11	Hosea 2	27	1 John 5
12	Hosea 3	28	Joel 1
13	Hosea 4	29	Joel 2
14	Hosea 5	30	Joel 3
15	Hosea 6	31	Amos 1
16	Hosea		



First School And Day Care

I want to thank everyone who came out to our annual Preschool Christmas program! It was a big success! It is always so wonderful to hear the children sing and tell the story of Jesus's birth!

We are looking forward to a great new year! We have big plans because we know God will always provide a way for our school!

The best is yet to come!

Many Blessings,
Bree Joines
First School Director

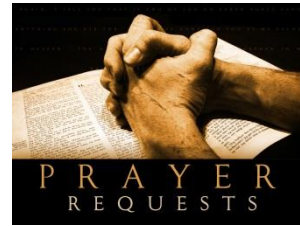
**First School Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 10th, 5:00 p.m.**

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please mark your calendar for Sunday,
January 29, 2023.

JANUARY READINGS

- 01/01 Prayer service with Communion
- 01/08 Exodus 12:33-42, Psalm 63:1-7, 1 Corinthians 7:1-5, Mark 14:66-72
- 01/15 Exodus 12:43-51, Psalm 63:8-11, 1 Corinthians 7:6-16, Mark 15:1-15
- 01/22 Exodus 13:1-16, Psalm 64:1-6, 1 Corinthians 7:17-24, Mark 15:16-20
- 01/29 Exodus 13:17-22, Psalm 64:1,7-10, 1 Corinthians 7:25-31, Mark 15:21-32

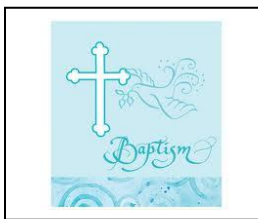


- 01/02 Becky Sample
- 01/03 Sarah Langston
- 01/08 Nora Hollingsworth
- 01/09 Helen Johnson
- 01/09 Kirk Marek
- 01/10 Landon Thane
- 01/13 Kalin Christenberry
- 01/15 Everly Orsak
- 01/16 Sarah Thane
- 01/18 Sheila Miller
- 01/20 Odis Newton
- 01/21 Dorothy Atchetee
- 01/27 Cathy Schoenfield
- 01/30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

Our FLC Family

- Dorothy Atchetee
- Harlo & Rhonda Achtetee
- Charles Bard
- Ron Chambles
- Shirley Chatel
- Nora Hollingsworth
- Bonnie Jones
- Marilyn Kight
- Kim & Larry Ledwig
- Lloyd Nelson
- Odis Newton
- Jimmy Nielsen
- Ashley Schoeneberg
- Bentley

Friends of FLC



List will be cleared on the 1st 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
ALL WHO
SERVE IN
THE US MILITARY**

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



COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, January 19th
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 Thursday, January 26th.

+ + + + + + + +

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed the week of December 26-30.

Flower Chart

The new Flower Chart for 2023 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. 31st in order to receive credit for 2022. All contributions received Jan. 1st or later will be credited to 2023, regardless of the date on the check.

Thank You!

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. Chambles for the care of the Cemetery, the Church Council, and First School Board and Bree Joines for the guidance of First School!

As 2022 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 look forward to the new year with hope as we await what it will bring!

WOMEN OF THE WORD

WOW Food Drive
Sunday, January 1st

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



LCMC Three Days of Prayer

January 3-5, 2023

Day One: January 3

For Our Congregations and Leaders.

"Lord, we pray that You bless our congregations and leaders with Your favor and with Your provision and power to carry out the ministry and mission You have in store for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

Day Two: January 4

For those who Don't Yet know Jesus as Savior and Lord, and For the Prodigals.

"Lord, give us Your heart for those who don't yet know you as Savior and Lord, and for the prodigals. Create in us a boldness to love them and to share our God-stories with them as opportunities arise. Open our eyes to be aware of everyday encounters in which we can minister your love and Your power to those in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

Day Three: January 5

For our International Partners.

"Thank You, Lord, that You have bound us together with these sister churches and leaders and partner networks. We pray that You will show us how we can come alongside them, encourage them, and serve with them. Lord, grant our brothers and sisters Your favor in their cities, communities, and countries. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen."



January 2023

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

January Responsibilities

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

READER

1st Prayer Service
 8th Kirk Marek
 15th Ted Schoenfield
 22nd Calvin Borak
 29th Cathy Schoenfield

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



JANUARY FLOWER CALENDAR

1st Open
 8th Open
 15th Open
 22nd Open
 29th Open

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Email: 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

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS: Calvin Borak, Sheila Herrington, Milton Johnson, Will Joines, Kirk Marek,
Cindy Mathews & Jimmy Nielsen

OUR NEWSLETTER
CAN BE FOUND ON
OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.FIRSTLUTHERANEC.COM



**Join us for our Annual Meeting
on Sunday, January 29th!**

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.