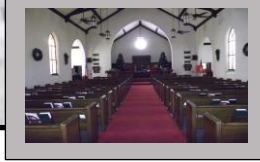


FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

January 2024



Volume 27 No. 1

First Things First ...

The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

Proverbs 16:8

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

James 4:13-16

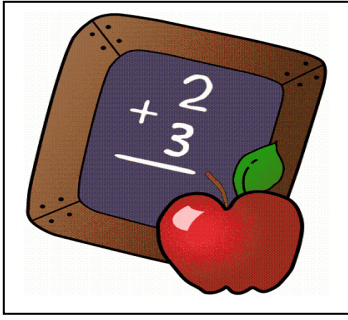
The new year is rapidly passing by. At least that's how last year felt: like a runaway freight train heading downhill. It seemed that 2023 ended upon its own beginning. The business of life made the year extremely short. And as a matter of experience and as a matter of experience, we should expect nothing less in 2024.

Of course, the new year is before us filled with promises, dreams, and hopes. It is the time of great expectations. It is the time for setting goals and making resolutions. There is nothing wrong in making resolutions; I make them all the time. Setting goals and resolving to attain them is a worthwhile and noble endeavour. In my experience, however, I am EXCELLENT at setting goals and making resolutions, and I am equally adept at not reaching them or keeping them. I know I need to do better.

What I truly need to do is apply Proverbs 16: 8 and James 4: 13- 16 to my goals and resolutions. Too many times in life I have thought I knew what would be best for my efforts. Pressing forward, I frequently found myself struggling to accomplish the goal I had set or the resolution I had made. I stumbled along without considering what God would have me do. In beginning 2024, I encourage you to join me and pray for the Lord to guide your steps every day. If we do that our God will help us reach the destination in life that is truly best for us. Together, let us consider where God wants us to go and what he wants us to do.

Always remember: Jesus loves you and so do I!

Pastor Grier



First School And Day Care

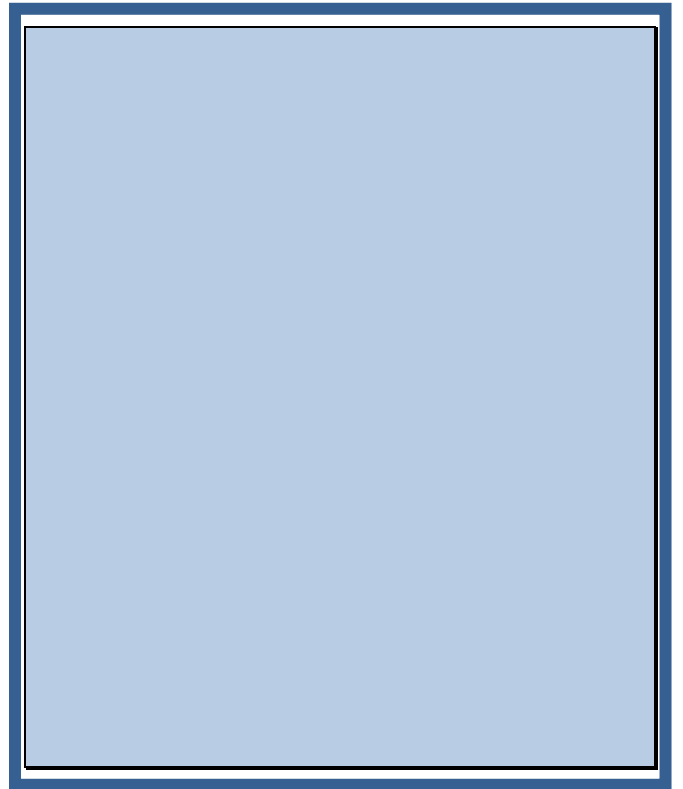


We want to thank everyone who came out to our Christmas program! We appreciate your support! We are looking forward to a great new year in 2024!

Thank You,

Bree Joines

First School Director



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

**Annual Congregational
Meeting**

Please mark your calendar for Sunday,
January 28, 2024.

JANUARY READINGS

01/07 Exodus 28:1-14, Psalm 73:16-22, 2 Corinthians 4:7-15. Luke 8:16-18

01/14 Exodus 28:15-30, Psalm 73:23-28, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Luke 8:19-21

01/21

01/28 Exodus 28:31-39, Psalm 74:1-3, 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Luke 8:22-25

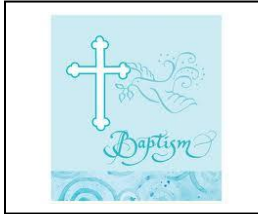


- 01/02 Becky Sample
- 01/03 Sarah Langston
- 01/09 Helen Johnson
- 01/09 Kirk Marek
- 01/10 Landon Thane
- 01/15 Everly Orsak
- 01/16 Sarah Thane
- 01/18 Sheila Miller
- 01/21 Dorothy Atchetee
- 01/27 Cathy Schoenfield
- 01/30 Rachel Hernandez
- 01/30 Cindy Mathews



- Our FLC Family**
- Dorothy Atchetee
 - Harlo & Rhonda Achtetee
 - Ron Chambles
 - Shirley Chatel
 - Bonnie Jones
 - Marilyn Kight
 - Kim & Larry Ledwig
 - Lloyd Nelson
 - 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
Monday, January 15th
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 next date to serve will be announced.

+ + + + + + + +

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed the week of December 25-29.

Flower Chart

The new Flower Chart for 2024 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 2023. All contributions received Jan. 1st or later will be credited to 2024, 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 2023 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!

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



First School Board

Thursday, January 11th
5:00 p.m.

Church Council

Monday, January 15th
6:00 p.m.

Day Three: January 4

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."

LCMC Three Days of Prayer

January 2-4, 2024

Day One: January 2

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 3

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."



January 2024

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

January Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Pat Marek
SEXTON: Calvin Borak
USHERS: Kirk Marek, Alvin Yackel
ALTAR GUILD: Billie Jean Bram, Cori Koudela
 Kim Ledwig

READER

7th Ty Schoenfield
 14th Kirk Marek
 21st Ted Schoenfield
 28th Calvin Borak

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, Will Joines, Karen Kight, Kim Ledwig, Kirk Marek, Cindy Mathews & Doug Mathews

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



**Join us for our Annual Meeting
on Sunday, January 28th!**

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