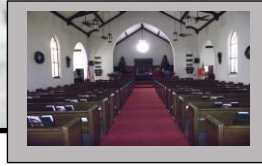


# FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

February 2021



Volume 24 No. 2

*First Things First ...*

## This I Believe

***“...in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect.”***  
**1 Peter 3:15**

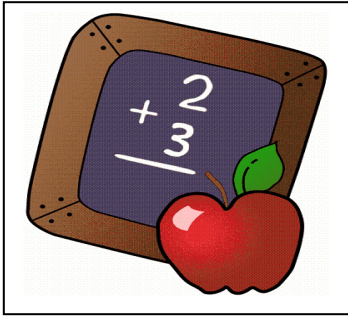
Belief exerts a powerful influence on every aspect of life. As Peter says above, there is a hope in everyone who believes in Christ the Lord. Each one of us should be ready, at any time, to make a defense (tell the reason) for that hope. In the series of statements which began in the February 2020 edition of *First Fruits*, I plan to share a summary of what I believe so that you may know me more fully and so you may see the reason for the hope that is in me. I continue the series with this article stating my belief regarding the style or practice of public and corporate worship.

I believe there are two types of worship: personal/private and corporate/public. Last month I relayed my view on personal/private worship. In summary, I believe the entire life of the Christian is to be a life of worship, continually worshipping God for all His blessings and disciplines. This month I address corporate/public worship. As I convey my observations of and my belief regarding this topic, I will use the words “corporate” and “public” interchangeably.

Valid corporate worship needs only be more than one and no other specific number of worshippers. It may be as few as two or (as will be experienced in heaven) as many as millions. It is the Lord’s presence which initiates worship. “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20). Our Savior truly deserves worship (i.e., Revelation 4:11, 5:12; Matthew 2:11; Mark 15:19; Luke 24:52; John 9:38). Worship, in any form and by any number of believers, should be focused on the One and Only Who Comes from the Father. The central element of worship should be the Word of God, and specifically, the Gospel of Christ. The Church, the gathering of Christians, is His (Matthew 16:18), and she worships her Lord and Savior.

So, how do we worship Him? While there are countless characteristics of worship, I believe there is only one style of worship. All worship is liturgical, when one understands the true meaning of the term. Liturgy is the pattern of worship incorporated into the public worship service. Many Christians are truly and fully blessed to worship together in a formal, prescribed and printed service. Many Christians are truly and fully blessed to worship in a service with no printed (or printed and bound) order of worship. These latter do, however, follow worship leaders and usually have a regularly reoccurring pattern to their worship. If the believers gathering for public worship each “did their own thing,” the result would be chaos. Scripture warns against such cacophony in 1 Corinthians 14:33, “For God is not the author of confusion but of peace...” The inherent danger of a “free” or “non-liturgical” worship (one that is wholly unorganized and anarchic) would mimic the problem of unbridled speaking in tongues addressed in 1 Corinthians 14:23, “Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak in tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?” An unbeliever would not hear the Gospel for all the tumultuous and discordant noise. Rather than saying there are two styles of worship, liturgical or non-liturgical, I profess and teach there are two forms of worship: traditional and contemporary.

(Continued on page 5)



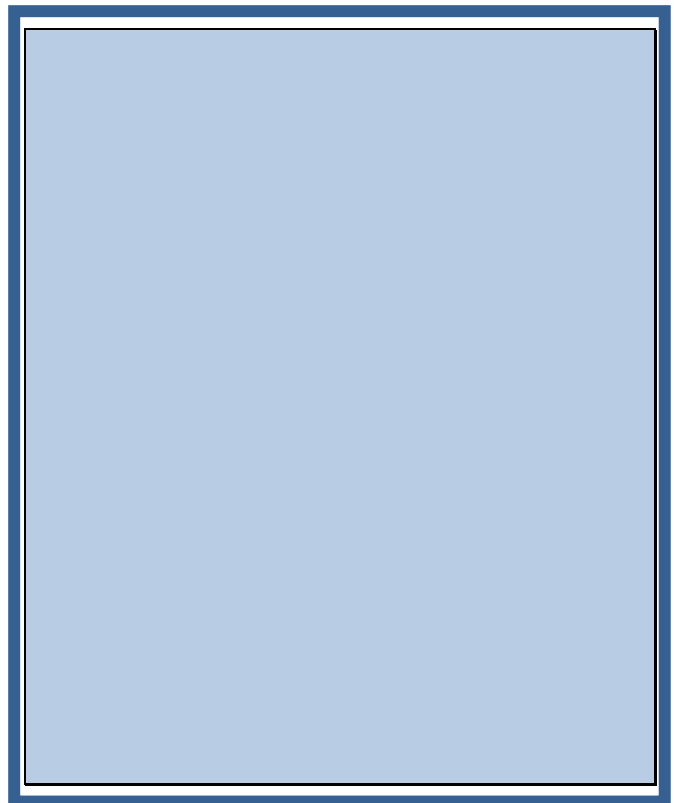
# First School And Day Care



We have 91 children currently enrolled and 17 teachers. Our school is growing, and we are currently working on an expansion in our Toddler area. We moved my office to the stage and have done quite a bit of construction to get it where it needed to be. We will have over 100 children at our school in the coming weeks. We are so excited to continue to grow and improve our school! 2020 was a rough year, but we were still able to accomplish so much! To God be the glory! The best is yet to come!

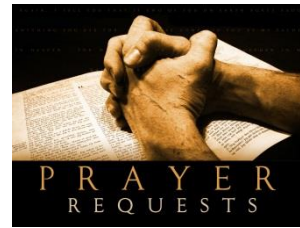
Many Blessings,  
Bree Joines  
First School Director

**First School Board Meeting -  
Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m.**



## FEBRUARY READINGS

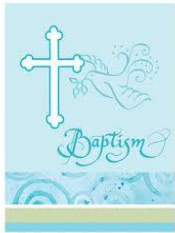
- 02/07 Psalm 29:7-11; Genesis 30:7-15, Acts 19:31-41, Matthew 17:21-27
- 02/14 Psalm 30:1-5; Genesis 30:16-24, Acts 20:1-12, Matthew 18:1-11
- 02/21 Psalm 30:6-12; Genesis 30:25-36, Acts 20:13-24, Matthew 18:12-20
- 02/28 Psalm 31:1-7; Genesis 30:37-43, Acts 20:25-38, Matthew 18:21-35



- 02/18 Kyle House
- 02/20 Ellis Lundy
- 02/21 Ty Schoenfield
- 02/23 Tammy Campbell
- 02/26 Lynn Talafuse
- 02/27 Nora Borak

- Our FLC Family**
- Dorothy Atchetee
  - Harlo & Rhonda Atchetee
  - Charles Bard
  - Ron Chambles
  - James & Sheila Herrington
  - Nora Hollingsworth
  - Harry & Marilyn Kight
  - Kim & Larry Ledwig
  - John Nelson
  - Odis Newton
  - Ruth Speckels
  - Charlotte Watson
  - Larry & Cheryl Young

- Friends of FLC**
- Tracy Morton
  - Kim Walker
  - Grady Allen Family



*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.*

- 02/03 Bram Koudela
- 02/15 Cori Koudela
- 02/22 Daniela Rodriguez
- 02/22 Ivan Rodriguez
- 02/23 Ty Schoenfield
- 02/24 Cash Dujka
- 02/24 Callie Dujka
- 02/25 Tammy Campbell



**PRAY FOR OUR  
LOVED ONES  
IN THE MILITARY**

Jake Barosh

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



OR



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

- 02/02 James & Sheila Herrington
- 02/18 Warren & Helen Johnson

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



**COUNCIL MEETING**  
Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

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

### Flower Chart

The Flower Chart for 2021 is available for you to choose your special dates. All Sundays for the month of February are open. Please sign up for the dates when you would like to provide flowers for our service!

+ + + + + + +

### FLCEC Manna Meals Team

Our Team will not have a date to serve at Manna Meals during February.

+ + + + + + +

### Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. We will have mid-week services beginning on Ash Wednesday.

### 2021 Annual Scandinavian Pancake Supper

Our annual Pancake Supper traditionally held on the last Sunday of February has been postponed to a later date.

### WOMEN OF THE WORD MEETING

Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>  
5:00 p.m.

**WOW Food Drive**  
Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

A = Always  
S = Say  
A = A  
P = Prayer



### Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who agreed to serve by filling in our monthly assignments positions for 2021 (Assisting Minister, Sexton, Ushers, Altar Guild)!

Let us know if there is an area in which you would like to serve!

Faith  
Hope  
Love

(Continued from page 1)

There is no greater legitimacy to either of these forms. Each form of worship can concentrate fully on the Savior while meeting the needs of different personalities. Traditional worship tends to have a printed order of worship with various elements that change in order to present the major doctrines of Scripture annually. Traditional congregations usually have historical hymns, prayers (some of which are prepared and printed beforehand), prescribed Scripture readings (pericopes) and a sermon typically based on the suggested Scripture readings. These churches repeat the pattern of worship in a routine that does not deviate significantly from week-to-week. Contemporary worship generally depicts a more freely flowing service featuring music with more modern rhythms, tempos and cadences (often falsely accused of being “7-11” songs [7 words sung 11 times]) and of more recent production and publication. The time of singing these “praise songs” often leads to a time of extemporaneous prayer offered by a worship team member or a pastor and the worship concludes with a pastor (most often the senior or leading pastor) preaching a sermon on a randomly selected yet Spirit-inspired Scripture passage. However, there can be as many variations in the order of worship as there are churches choosing to worship in this manner. Some Christians need and desire the consistency and structure of the traditional worship. Other Christians desire and need the fervor and intensity of the contemporary style. Even so, there are times when the traditional worship can be fervent and intense and the contemporary worship can offer consistency and structure. Both forms should keep in mind the guidance of Holy Scripture, “Let all things be done for building up (1 Corinthians 14:26b).” Legitimate worship is focused on God’s Word, gives glory to Him and encourages the worshipper in mind and spirit. As Jesus told the Samaritan woman, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him (John 4:23).”

I believe this is most certainly true! Pastor Grier

+ + + + +

### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2021

Date	Reading	Date	Reading
1	1 Kings 4	15	Acts 14
2	1 Kings 5	16	1 Kings 12
3	1 Kings 6	17	1 Kings 13
4	1 Kings 7	18	1 Kings 14
5	1 Kings 8	19	1 Kings 15
6	1 Kings 9	20	1 Kings 16
7	1 Kings 10	21	1 Kings 17
8	1 Kings 11	22	1 Kings 18
9	Acts 8	23	1 Kings 19
10	Acts 9	24	1 Kings 20
11	Acts 10	25	1 Kings 21
12	Acts 11	26	1 Kings 22
13	Acts 12	27	Acts 15
14	Acts 13	28	Acts 16

# February 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <b>WOW Meeting 5PM</b>	2	3	4	5	6
7 <b>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion WOW Food Drive</b>	8	9 <b>First School Board Meeting 5:00PM</b>	10	11	12	13
14 <b>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM Installation</b>	15	16 <b>Newsletter Items Due</b>	17 <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b>	18 <b>Church Council Meeting 6PM</b>	19	20
21 <b>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion</b>	22	23	24 <b>Lenten Service</b>	25	26	27
28 <b>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM</b>						

## February Responsibilities

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Ted Schoenfield

**SEXTON:** Gaynard Wigginton

**USHERS:** Ed Campbell, Kirk Marek

**ALTAR GUILD:** Gloria & Ed Campbell

### ACOLYTES

7<sup>th</sup>  
14<sup>th</sup>  
21<sup>st</sup>  
28<sup>th</sup>

### READER

Cathy Schoenfield  
Diane Stewart  
Helen Johnson  
Ty Schoenfield

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



## FEBRUARY FLOWER CALENDAR

7<sup>th</sup> Open  
14<sup>th</sup> Open  
21<sup>st</sup> Open  
28<sup>th</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*



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

*CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS: Milton Johnson, David Kight, Kirk Marek, Jimmy Nielsen, Cathy Schoenfield, & Lynn Talafuse*

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



**Join us on Sunday mornings!**

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

**Annual Scandinavian Pancake Supper  
(postponed to a later date)**