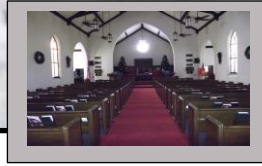


FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

February 2022



Volume 25 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 my belief regarding human sexuality, as revealed in God’s Word.

The definition of human sexuality and that which is considered legitimate sexuality seems to change daily. What should a Christian believe, profess, and do?

BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING: *So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)*

The foundation for human sexuality anchors in the creative work of God. The LORD said, *“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make for him a helper suitable for him.”* Thus, the Creator designed them. He made a man and a woman. He made them to love, honor, and serve one another. While anatomically and emotionally different, the two were perfectly complementary. Through the millennia, the perverting influence of sin altered the created perfection which led to the corruption of all created things, including sexual behavior and identity. *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God. or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore, God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator...* (Romans 1:18-25). Sadly, the Bible’s description of sexual wickedness in the First Century accurately portrays the state of morals in this Twenty-first Century. The prevailing winds of culture and law propel society away from God’s intent for sex and gender.

The Bible plainly identifies any extra-marital sexual activity as sin. *You shall not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18). But I (Jesus) say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart (Matthew 5:28). But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among the saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolator), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (Ephesians 5:3-6) Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous*

(Hebrews 13:4). The Lord intends sexual activity to be confined to a heterosexual and monogamous marriage.

Various sex-oriented topics are promoted as “rights.” If anyone dares oppose those beliefs, that person stands accused and branded as hateful, intolerant, and even racist. Some of the more prominent topics are directly addressed in the Scriptures. Among these are:

Cross-dressing: A woman shall not wear a man’s garment, nor shall a man put on a woman’s cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God (Deuteronomy 22:5).

Transgender surgery: No one whose testicles are crushed or whose male organ is cut off shall enter the assembly of the Lord [Logic concludes adding a male organ and/or testicles or hormonal injections would carry similar condemnation.] (Deuteronomy 23:1).

Gender identity: So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them (Genesis 1:27). Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you... (Jeremiah 1:5). Not only did the LORD create the first man and woman, to this day he fashions each person to be born as he desires: some are male, some female. The detrimental effect of sin may confuse the “self-identity” for some, but anatomically humans are either male or female and remain such throughout life’s span.

Same-sex attraction: And you shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. (Leviticus 18:22) (B)because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator...God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error (Romans 1:25-27). Or do you not know the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice same-sex activity...will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

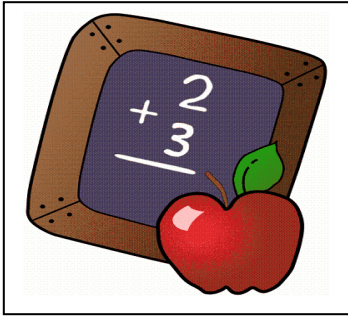
God’s teaching about other sex-related subjects can be found in Leviticus 18, 20:10-21; Deuteronomy 22:13-24:5 (other topics included). I will offer a more complete listing in the March newsletter.

However, sexual sin carries no greater judgment than any other sin. There is no one who is worthy to “cast the first stone.” *Are we better than they? Not at all: for we have already charged that both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin; as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one...” (Romans 3:9-20). (F)or all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... (Romans 3:23). Even so, everyone’s hope rests in this promise of God: we are being justified as a gift by his grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus...the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord...For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God (Romans 3:24. 6:23; Ephesians 2:8)*

Regardless of one’s sin, this remains by the forgiving and changing power of God:

*Such **WERE** (emphasis mine) some of you, but you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11).*

Keep reading the Word and growing in God’s grace! Pastor Grier



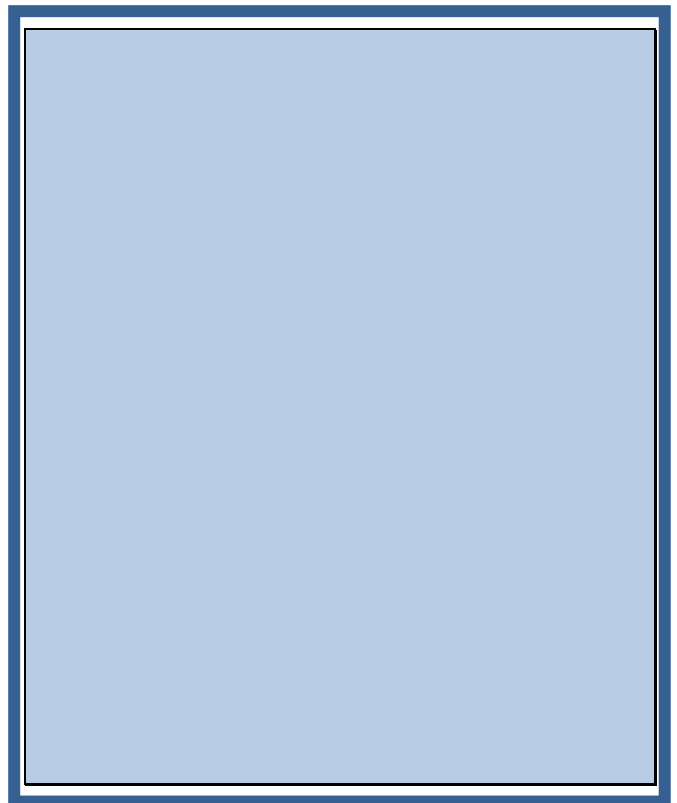
First School And Day Care



The First School has 115 children enrolled. For the month of February we are focusing on God's love for us. We are also learning how we can show love to others and how to be a good friend. The children will enjoy a Valentines exchange for Valentine's Day. We are excited to see what this year holds and feel we are starting it off on a positive note!

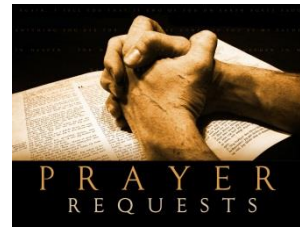
Many Blessings,
Bree Joines
First School Director

**First School Board Meeting -
Tuesday, February 8th, at 5:00 p.m.**



FEBRUARY READINGS

- 02/06 Genesis 47:26-31, Psalm 45:10-17, Romans 8:1-8, Mark 2:13-17
- 02/13 Genesis 48:1-10, Psalm 46:1-7, Romans 8:9-13, Mark 2:18-22
- 02/20 Genesis 48:11-22, Psalm 46:8-11, Romans 8:14-19, Mark 2:23-28
- 02/27 Genesis 49:1-12, Psalm 47:1-4, Romans 8:20-27, Mark 3:1-6



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

Our FLC Family

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

Friends of FLC

- Marilyn K
- Kim S



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.

- 02/02 Kirk Marek
- 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
- 02/29 Pat Marek



**PRAY FOR
ALL WHO
SERVE IN
THE US MILITARY**

WE'RE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US



OR



- 02/02 James & Sheila Herrington
- 02/14 Lionel & Shirley Chatel
- 02/18 Warren & Helen Johnson

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

Phone: 979-543-5847

Email: office@firstlutheranec.com



COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, February 17th
6:00 p.m.

Pastor Clyde Grier:
Phone: 979-541-6173

Flower Chart

The Flower Chart for 2022 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.

2022 Annual Scandinavian Pancake Supper

Our annual Pancake Supper traditionally held on the last Sunday of February has been canceled due to the ongoing cases of COVID.

WOMEN OF THE WORD

WOW Food Drive
Sunday, February 6th

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 2022 (Assisting Minister, Sexton, Ushers, Altar Guild)!

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

PRAY LIKE NEHEMIAH
OBEY LIKE DANIEL
LEAD LIKE MOSES
SERVE LIKE MARTHA
BELIEVE LIKE MARY
FIGHT LIKE DAVID
EDUCATE LIKE PAUL
BUILD LIKE NOAH
LOVE LIKE JESUS

February 2022



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

February Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Ted Schoenfield

SEXTON: Gaynard Wigginton

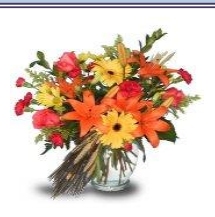
USHERS: Ed Campbell, Kirk Marek

ALTAR GUILD: Gloria & Ed Campbell

READER

6th Ted Schoenfield
 13th Calvin Borak
 20th Cathy Schoenfield
 27th Diane Stewart

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



FEBRUARY FLOWER CALENDAR

6th Open
 13th Open
 20th Open
 27th 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*

February

Join us on **FACEBOOK** or check us out at
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



Join us on Sunday mornings!

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.

**Annual Scandinavian Pancake Supper
(canceled)**