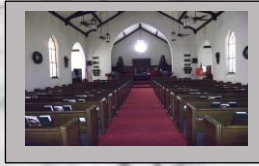


# FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

March 2020



Volume 23 No. 3

*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 February edition of *First Fruits*, I shared a summary of my belief regarding the Bible. This month I offer the Principles I apply in reading Holy Writ and by which I strive to understand the message God wants me to understand. These guidelines provide the basis for my preaching and teaching.

The Scriptures are the inspired, inerrant and infallible revelation of God's will and work in and on and through people. Thus, the name of Holy Writ is The Written Word of God, commonly called The Bible. The Bible consists of the sixty-six canonical ("universally" accepted) books of the Old and New Testaments. The following principles are generally embraced by most conservative and evangelical exegetes (translators) and scholars. The particular branch of the literal interpretation which I utilize is known as the "Grammatical-Historical Method" of Biblical interpretation. It focuses attention not only on the literary forms but also on the grammatical and historical circumstances of the milieu in which the text was written. The principles I employ to interpret and apply the teachings of the Bible to life are the following guidelines.

## TEN BASIC PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION (HERMENEUTICS)

1. The Bible is to be read and understood in a plain or literal sense, unless the context of a reading definitively indicates a symbolic or spiritual understanding.
2. The text is to be understood in the light of its context. The verse before and/or after, as well as, the chapter before/after a reading often sheds light on the meaning to be understood.
3. Scripture interprets Scripture. If the meaning or application of a reading is not comprehensible or understandable, then the reader should seek and apply the teachings of plain or understandable passages that reveal the message to be grasped. All essential doctrines are fully and clearly explained-either in the immediate context or somewhere in the Bible.
4. The Word of God is to be understood in a progressive revelation from the Old Testament to the New Testament. That which is shadowed or inferred in the Old Testament is unveiled (interpreted) or revealed (made plain) in the New Testament.
5. The Bible is to be interpreted in view of the fact that it is an accommodation of Divine Truth to human minds. At times finite man must concede to the greater wisdom and knowledge of the Divine Author. Sometimes I must admit that I do not understand a passage but I will await the day when the Holy Spirit will increase my comprehension, even if that is in heaven.

6. Every verse of the Bible has only one interpretation, but it may have numerous applications. The one correct interpretation will mirror the intent of the inspired writer.
7. The Bible does not contradict itself. The Christian presupposes the inerrancy and harmony of the Scriptures. Properly applying the principles of interpretation will resolve any apparent conflicts.
8. Proper interpretation must take the general literary category of any given passage into consideration. Is the passage poetry, history or prophecy? We must understand, to the fullest extent possible, the intent of the author in the genre of the passage.
9. The study of word meanings, grammar and syntax of the original languages (Hebrew, Chaldaic, Aramaic and Greek) of biblical writings is important for the proper understanding of Scripture. Helps for those not proficient in those languages are: lexicons, Bible dictionaries, detailed exegetical commentaries, and parsing guides-these can provide a deeper understanding of crucial or difficult passages.
10. The Bible was composed in specific cultures at particular points in time. It is universal in application, but the truths of the Bible are best understood when taking the surrounding culture and history into account.

Interpretation of Scripture will never be an exact science. The beliefs we bring to the text – our theological presuppositions – will influence understanding, at least to some degree. We cannot eliminate these (nor should we if they are Scripturally sound), but we can test all things and hold to what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

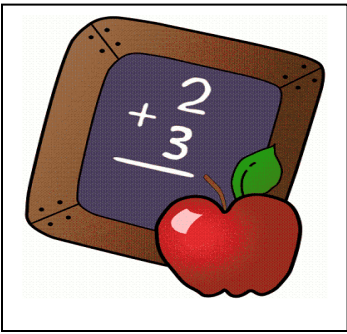
I pray these will aid in understanding how my belief has been drawn from the Scriptures. I encourage you to read God’s Word in the same light that we may profess mutual respect, understanding and application of His Revelation.

Stay in the Word, Pastor Grier

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### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE MARCH 2020

Date	Reading	Date	Reading
1	Exodus 3	17	Exodus 19
2	Exodus 4	18	Exodus 20
3	Exodus 5	19	Exodus 21
4	Exodus 6	20	Exodus 22
5	Exodus 7	21	Exodus 23
6	Exodus 8	22	Exodus 24
7	Exodus 9	23	Exodus 25
8	Exodus 10	24	Exodus 26
9	Exodus 11	25	Exodus 27
10	Exodus 12	26	Exodus 28
11	Exodus 13	27	Exodus 29
12	Exodus 14	28	Exodus 30
13	Exodus 15	29	Exodus 31
14	Exodus 16	30	Exodus 32
15	Exodus 17	31	Exodus 33
16	Exodus 18		



# First School And Day Care

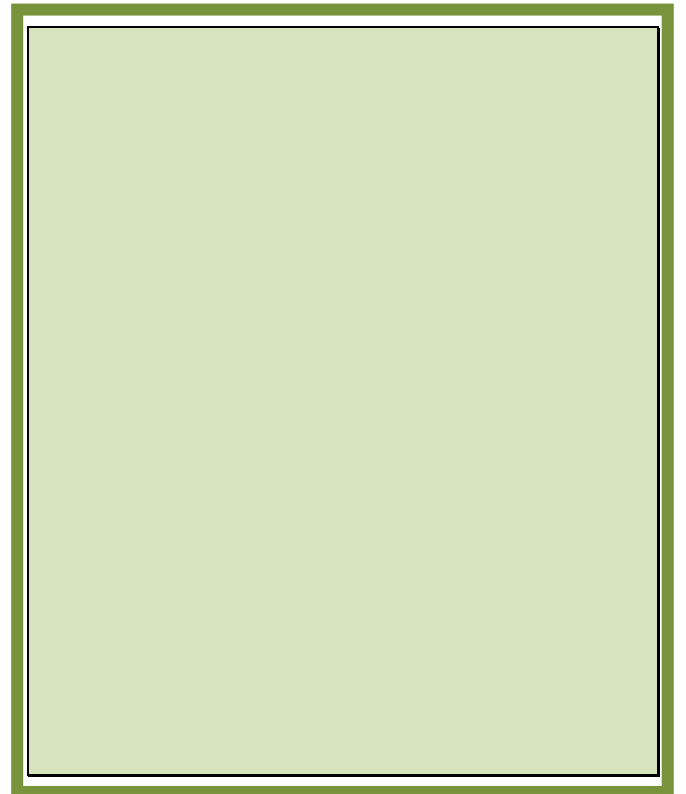
First School currently has 76 children enrolled. We are excited about getting our new Infant room opened up by the end of April! All of the babies under 12 months will be in the parsonage when the room is completed. We appreciate your prayers for the school as we go into this new project!

Many Blessings,

Bree Joines

First School Director

**First School Board Meeting –  
Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m.**



## MARCH READINGS

- 03/01 Psalm 8; Genesis 9, Acts 5:1-16, Matthew 4:1-11
- 03/08 Psalm 9; Genesis 10, Acts 5:17-42, Matthew 4:12-22
- 03/15 Psalm 10; Genesis 11, Acts 6:1-7:16, Matthew 4:23-25
- 03/22 Psalms 11-13; Genesis 12, Acts 7:17-60, Matthew 5:1-16
- 03/29 Psalms 14-16; Genesis 13, Acts 8:1-25, Matthew 5:17-30



- 03/07 Ryan Woodson
- 03/08 Thomas Hernandez
- 03/16 James Herrington



**Our FLC Family**

- Dorothy Atchetee
- Harlo Atchetee
- Charles Bard
- Ron Chambles
- James Herrington
- Nora Hollingsworth
- Jewel Deen House
- Harry & Marilyn Kight
- Kim & Larry Ledwig
- John Nelson
- Jimmy & Sharon Nielsen
- Charlotte Watson

**Friends of FLC**

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Vanessa                | Luke Streiferd            |
| Eugene Bard            | Ruby Davis                |
| Ernest & Rozell Giesie | Laura Atchetee Cunningham |
| Peggy Glaze            | Joan Carter               |
| Verna Roy              | Sheryl Cushing            |
| Kim Walker             | Tommie Wilson             |
| Monica Harris          | Robert & Delpha Price     |
| Riley Sless            | Family of Eddie Graeter   |
| Sherry Morgan          | Glenell Wenglar           |
| S J Swanson            | Tammy Haas                |
| Shawn                  | Sue Bella                 |
| Daniel Wittig          |                           |
| Kim S                  |                           |



- 03/06 Jaqueline Lundy
- 03/06 Cathy Schoenfield
- 03/10 Rachel Hernandez
- 03/13 Brantley Doege
- 03/13 Alvin Yackel
- 03/23 Sheila Miller
- 03/25 Emma Jo Barosh
- 03/26 Nora Hollingsworth

*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.*



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



- 03/18 Kirk & Nerissa House
- 03/19 Saby & Lynette Hernandez
- 03/30 Doug & Cindy Mathews

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



OR



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

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



**COUNCIL MEETING**  
Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

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

## Thank You!

We want to thank everyone who helped with our annual pancake supper! It takes all of us working together to make this event successful. We appreciate our hard-working volunteers!!

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### FLCEC Manna Meals Team

Our FLCEC Manna Meals Team will be serving on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Please let Cathy Schoenfield know if you will be able to help. The team welcomes anyone who would like to come and help with this outreach effort. Help is always needed with setting up, serving and cleaning up!

Where all are family and all are fed

### Newly elected Church Council Members:

Milton Johnson, Kirk Marek, Jimmy Nielsen

### Continuing Church Council Members:

David Kight, Sheila Miller

Cathy Schoenfield, Lynn Talafuse

### Elected to First School Board:

Billie Jean Bram, Kim Ledwig, Diane Stewart

### Continuing on First School Board:

Helen Kight, Cindy Mathews

### Elected to Cemetery Board:

David Kight

### Continuing on Cemetery Board:

Calvin, Borak, Nora Borak

### Auditors – 2020

Ruth Speckels, Pat Marek

### Nominating Committee – 2020

Karen Kight, Loretta Johnson, Daniel Wilfert

## WOMEN OF THE WORD MEETING

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

**WOW Food Drive**  
Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



## Lenten Schedule

### Ash Wednesday Service

February 26<sup>th</sup> -

(Philippians 2:1-11) His State of Humiliation

### Lenten Services – Wednesdays

March 4<sup>th</sup> - Limited by Humanity

March 11<sup>th</sup> - Growing Pains

March 18<sup>th</sup> - Adored and Abhorred

March 25<sup>th</sup> - Misunderstood

April 1<sup>st</sup> - Tried and Tortured

## A Lenten Thought

*<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.*

*<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.*

*<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.*

Psalm 51:10-12

NRSV



# March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion WOW Food Drive	2 WOW Meeting 5PM	3	4 Lenten Service 6:30PM	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM	9	10 FS Board Meeting 5:30PM Newsletter Items Due	11 Lenten Service 6:30PM	12	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion	16	17	18 Lenten Service 6:30PM	19 Church Council Meeting 6:00PM	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM	23	24	25 Lenten Service 6:30PM	26 Manna Meals 5-6:30 PM FLCEC Team serves	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM	30	31				

## March Responsibilities

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Jimmy Nielsen

**SEXTON:** Doug Mathews

**USHERS:** Doug Mathews, David Kight

**ALTAR GUILD:** Cindy Mathews, Helen Johnson  
Linda Korenek

### ACOLYTES

1<sup>st</sup>  
8<sup>th</sup>  
15<sup>th</sup>  
22<sup>nd</sup>  
29<sup>th</sup>

### READER

Ruth Speckels  
Ty Schoenfield  
Kirk Marek  
Ted Schoenfield  
Sheila Herrington

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



## MARCH FLOWER CALENDAR

1<sup>st</sup>  
Open

8<sup>th</sup>  
Warren & Helen Johnson

15<sup>th</sup>  
Jimmy & Kathleen Joines

22<sup>nd</sup>  
Open

29<sup>th</sup>  
Open

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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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, Sheila Miller, Jimmy Nielsen,  
Cathy Schoenfield, Lynn Talafuse*



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

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

A rectangular box containing a logo and text. The logo is a circular emblem with a white cross in the center, surrounded by a rainbow of colors. Below the cross, the word "Welcome" is written in a cursive font. At the bottom of the box, the text "Sunday School – 9:30 a.m" and "Worship Service – 10:45 a.m." is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font.