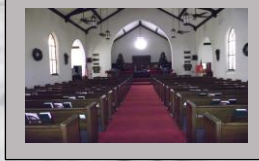


# FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

April 2022



Volume 25 No. 4

## *First Things First...*

### IF I HAD BEEN THERE...

*They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.* John 20:9

"Hello, this is Dick Tracy." Circa 1931, Detective Dick Tracy began using his two-way wristwatch radio (with a video screen addition in 1964) to aid his crime-fighting heroics. Earlier (1865), Jules Verne published the preposterous notion of space exploration in his book *From Earth to The Moon*. Modern-day devices such as geocentric tracers, ankle monitors, 3-D printers, credit cards, artificial intelligence (and others ad infinitum) seemed surreal when first proposed in fictional writings. While once scoffed and ridiculed as "impossible," these devices have become commonplace to the extent that they are routinely taken for granted. Tell anyone under the age of thirty-nine that mobile phones were not available to the public before their birth and the fact will be met with disbelief and derision. So...

What must have been the thought processes of the first visitors to Jesus' tomb on the first day of the week following his crucifixion? They had to be experiencing the denial stage of grief thinking, "He can't be dead. He's not really gone." Then, they arrive at the site to complete the entombment processing of his corpse and discover that the body is gone. It would have been as incomprehensible as a Smartwatch in a 1931 cartoon strip. There had to be a plausible explanation. They had to tell someone. Someone who would return his body to its proper place. The logical choice would be to tell those who knew him best: his disciples!

Mary Magdalene found Peter and John. After hearing her report, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him," the two men ran for the burial site. Inspecting the freshly hewn cave, they saw the linens which had been his shroud. Peter's thoughts are not reported, but John admits: "(h)e saw and believed" (John 20:8). *They did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.* The sentence structure indicates that he believed the report that Jesus' body had been stolen. If I had been there...

I would have believed the same thing, even though there was evidence to contradict Mary's report. The question which should have arisen was overlooked in the grief of the moment. Why would a body brutalized by torture, beatings and a spear wound be taken without the linen wrappings? There would be some blood on the material, but the damaged body would have been less gruesome to carry and more rapidly moved if the shroud remained. I would like to believe I would have been calmer and observant. The reality is that I would have thought the same as Mary, "Somebody stole his body!"

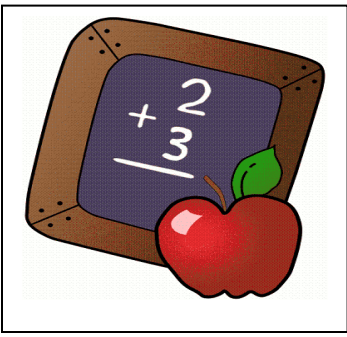
Praise the Lord, I (we) live in "the rest of the story." We know how this episode ends:

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!!

HALLELUIAH!!!

What a joy and privilege to celebrate the greatest moment in history! May you experience all the blessings of His Resurrection!

Jesus loves you and so do I! Pastor Grier



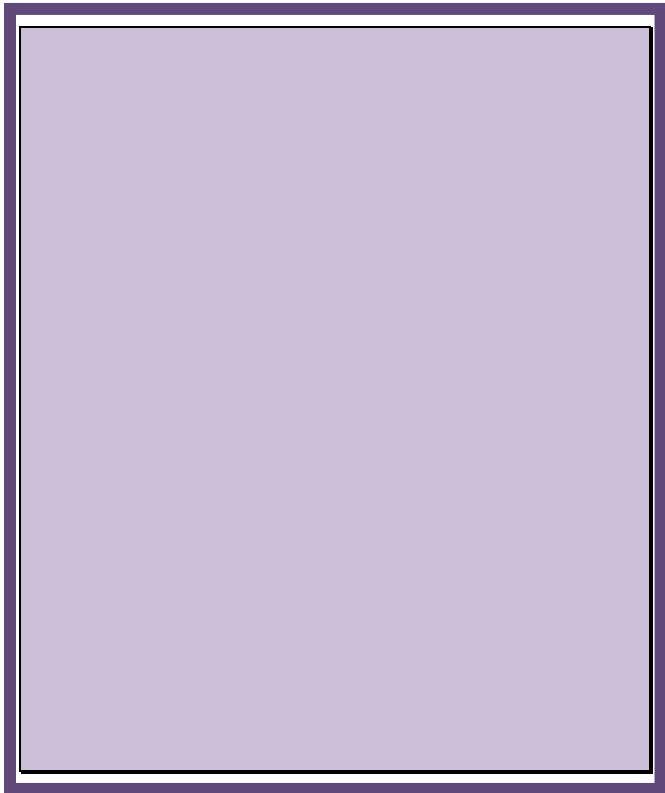
# First School And Day Care

The First School has 120 kids and a substantial wait list. We are in the middle of planning out summer and finding a good date for VBS. As soon as we get a date, we will let everyone know. We will be needing volunteers so if you are interested, please let me know.

Many Blessings,  
Bree Joines  
First School Director

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**First School Board Meeting -  
Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.**



## APRIL READINGS

- 04/03 Exodus 1:1-22, Psalm 49:5-11, Romans 9:27-33, Mark 8:1-10
- 04/10 Exodus 2:1-10, Psalm 49:12-15, Romans 10:1-10, Mark 8:11-21
- 04/17 Exodus 2:11-15, Psalm 49:16-20, Romans 10:11-21, Mark 8:22-30
- 04/24 Exodus 2:16-25, Psalm 50:1-6, Romans 11:1-10, Mark 8:31-9:1



- 04/12 Emma Moulden
- 04/12 Ivan Rodriguez
- 04/14 Sheila Herrington
- 04/18 Angelina Tijerina
- 04/20 Calvin Borak
- 04/26 Benjamin Hernandez
- 04/28 Gabriella Tijerina



**Our FLC Family**

- Dorothy Atchetee
- Harlo & Rhonda Atchetee
- Charles Bard
- Ron Chambles
- Shirley Chatel
- Lynda Christenberry
- Nora Hollingsworth
- Marilyn Kight
- Kim & Larry Ledwig
- Lloyd & Diane Nelson
- Odis Newton
- Becky Sample
- Ashley Schoeneberg
- Ruth Speckels
- Bentley

**Friends of FLC**

- Kim S
- Ellwood Hermansen
- Albina Joines



- 04/02 Helen Johnson
- 04/10 Doug Mathews
- 04/20 Cindy Mathews
- 04/22 James Stewart
- 04/28 Haley Orsak

*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  
ALL WHO  
SERVE IN  
THE US MILITARY**

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



- 04/19 Calvin & Nora Borak



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, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

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

## *Easter Egg Hunt*

**WHERE:** Helen Kight's House  
3294 S St Hwy 71

**WHEN:** Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

Please bring your basket and 12 pre-filled eggs. If you can bring cookies please tell Helen Kight or Billie Jean Bram.

If you do not have children or grandkids you are invited to bring a lawn chair and come for the fellowship!

## **Easter Floral Garden**

We are asking our members to help beautify our worship service on Easter Sunday, April 17, with cut flower arrangements, plants or greenery.

If you would like to place your flowers/plants/greenery in memory or honor of loved ones you may fill out the form that is available in the Narthex and leave it in the church office. All arrangements and plants are requested to be delivered to the church by 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 16. (Ruth S will have Easter selections available if needed.)

## WOMEN OF THE WORD

**WOW Food Drive**  
Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

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



## **FLCEC Manna Meals Team**

Our Manna Meals Team will serve on  
Monday, April 18th.

## **Holy Week Schedule**

### **Palm Sunday**

April 10, Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

### **Maundy Thursday Service**

April 14, TBA

Traitor Or Protagonist?

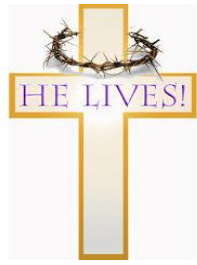
### **Good Friday Service**

April 15, TBA

The Beginning of the Beginning

### **Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day**

April 17, Worship Service 10:45 a.m.



# April 2022

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

## April Responsibilities

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Kirk House  
**SEXTON:** Jimmy Nielsen  
**USHERS:** Kirk House, Will Joines  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Jan Nelson & Kathleen Joines

### READER

3<sup>rd</sup> Calvin Borak  
 10<sup>th</sup> Cathy Schoenfield  
 17<sup>th</sup> Diane Stewart  
 24<sup>th</sup> Helen Johnson

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



## APRIL FLOWER CALENDAR

3<sup>rd</sup> Open  
 10<sup>th</sup> Palms  
 17<sup>th</sup> Easter Floral Garden  
 24<sup>th</sup> Open

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

Email: office@firstlutheranec.com

ESTABLISHED FEB 1893

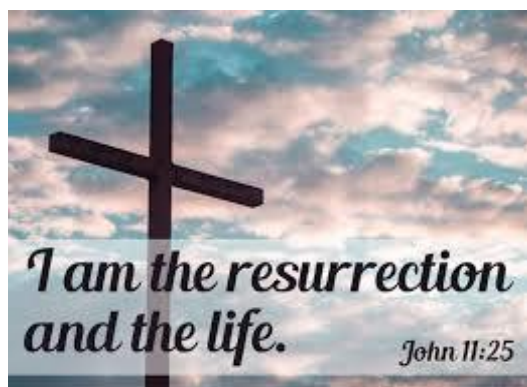
*Worshipping Christ and Sharing  
the Word for over a century.*

**Clyde Grier, Pastor**  
**Helen Marie Kight, Organist**  
**Christine Richter, Office Manager**  
**Bree Joines, Director of First School**



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



**Join us for worship  
on Sunday mornings!**

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