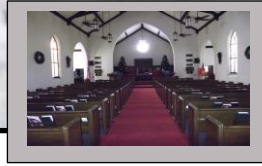


FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

May 2022



Volume 25 No. 5

FIRST THINGS FIRST

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

What a joyful and thrilling experience was shared by all who attended the SONrise Celebration this past Sunday. The voices raised in song, praising Christ, lifted a melody of love and thankfulness to God. The love filling the air offered a festive and enjoyable atmosphere to everyone present.

All that is as it should be. The Resurrection of our Savior warrants the greatest celebration imaginable! That is why Sundays following Ash Wednesday and preceding Easter are designated as Sundays "in" or "during" Lent rather than Sundays "of" Lent. It is also why Sundays during the Lenten season are not counted in determining the forty days of Lent. Those Sundays mark and applaud the day on which Jesus conquered death. Indeed, every Sunday should be a celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. Every Sunday should be considered an Easter Sunday.

The connectivity between the paramount events of Christ's earthly life should be noted: if not for Christmas there could be no Good Friday or Easter; without Good Friday Christmas would be irrelevant and there would be no Easter; without Easter Christmas and Good Friday lose any permanent benefit. Jesus was born, died and rose from the tomb to redeem all mankind from sin, death, and the power of the devil. The Uniquely-begotten Son of God voluntarily became a man, offered himself as the only sacrifice worthy to appease God's wrath, and received commendation for his efforts when he rose from the dead through the glory of the Father. Three spectacular and irreplicable events deserving recognition and observance. According to the Scriptures, this is (or should be) of first importance to all those ransomed by Christ.

It was a joy that seventy-one people chose to attend the SONrise Celebration. It was exciting that ninety-seven were present for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Yet, there are 51 Sunday worship services each year having 20-35 attending. Why? Is not the gift of eternal life worthy of surrendering one day each week to mark a public declaration of thanksgiving? Considering time of preparation, travel, and worship, is it not appropriate to dedicate one-half of one day each week to gather with fellow believers in worship of the God who gave himself over to death in order that we might have everlasting life? Is it too hard a thing to surrender one-half a day even once a month?

(continued on page 2)

When large numbers of people come together for worship, there is a greater sense and experience of worship in spirit and in truth.

I can ask those questions as a pastor or as a concerned layman. Imagine for a moment that rather than me the Lord is asking. What can be offered as a valid reason for doing anything other than attending worship on a regular basis? I can think of only five: dangerous weather conditions, scheduled work, illness, severe injury, or emergency that could lead to injury or property damage. However, I propose what is frequently offered as a “reason” for missing worship is really an excuse. As presented in an old gospel song:

Excuses, excuses, you hear them every day,
The devil he'll provide them if from church you stay away.
When people come to know the Lord, the devil always loses,
So, to keep those folks away from church he offers them excuses.

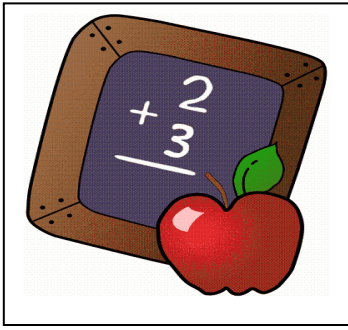
Praise the LORD: Jesus died to pay for our sins and iniquity, and he rose from death for our justification!! No more excuses! Remember: Jesus loves you and so do I!

Pastor Grier

+ + + + + +

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE MAY 2022

Date	Reading	Date	Reading
1	Proverbs 20	17	1 Timothy 5
2	Proverbs 21	18	1 Timothy 6
3	Proverbs 22	19	Ecclesiastes 1
4	Proverbs 23	20	Ecclesiastes 2
5	Proverbs 24	21	Ecclesiastes 3
6	Proverbs 25	22	Ecclesiastes 4
7	Proverbs 26	23	Ecclesiastes 5
8	Proverbs 27	24	Ecclesiastes 6
9	Proverbs 28	25	Ecclesiastes 7
10	Proverbs 29	26	Ecclesiastes 8
11	Proverbs 30	27	Ecclesiastes 9
12	Proverbs 31	28	Ecclesiastes 10
13	1 Timothy 1	29	Ecclesiastes 11
14	1 Timothy 2	30	Ecclesiastes 12
15	1 Timothy 3	31	Song of Solomon 1
16	1 Timothy 4		



First School And Day Care



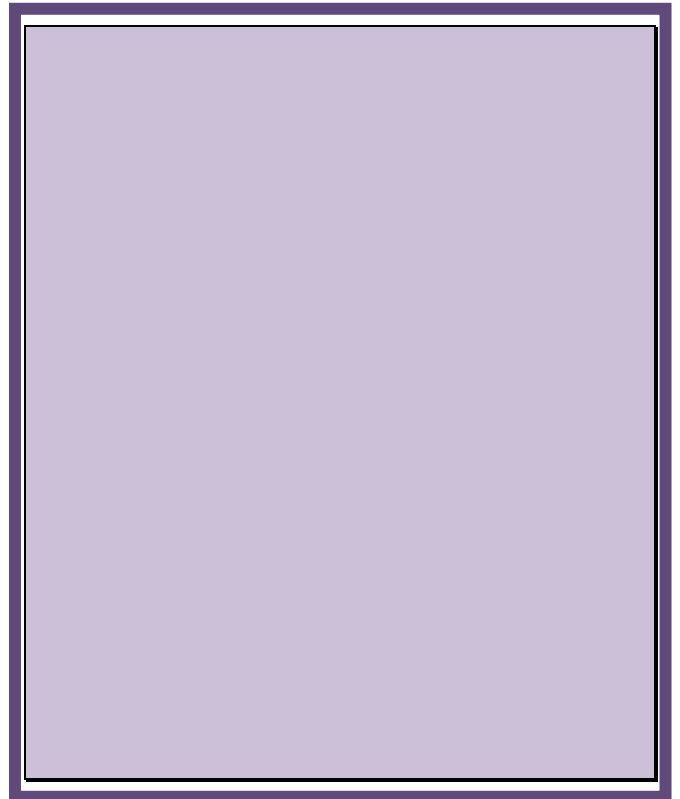
The First School has 120 children enrolled and a very significant wait list. We are looking forward to our Preschool and PreK graduation and end of the year program. We will have 24 graduates who are very excited about this event! Our graduation will be on Tuesday, May 24th, at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary and our invitation is open to those in the church who would like to join us!

Many Blessings,

Bree Joines

The First School Director

**First School Board Meeting –
Tuesday, May 10th – 5:00 p.m.**



MAY READINGS

- 05/01 Exodus 2:16-25, Psalm 50:7-11, Romans 11:1-10, Mark 8:31-9:1
- 05/08 Exodus 3:1-9, Psalm 50:12-15, Romans 11:11-16, Mark 9:2-13
- 05/15 Exodus 3:10-14, Psalm 50:16-21, Romans 11:17-24, Mark 9:14-29
- 05/22 Exodus 3:15-22, Psalm 50:22-23, Romans 11:25-32, Mark 9:30-37
- 05/29 Exodus 4:1-13, Psalm 51:1-5, Romans 11:33-12:2, Mark 9:38-49



- 05/01 Kim Kainer
- 05/05 Robert Hollingsworth
- 05/20 Emery Langston
- 05/23 Dagny Thane
- 05/25 Shane Langston
- 05/26 Kathleen Joines
- 05/30 Evon Atchetee



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
- Albina Joines



- 05/02 Kirk House
- 05/11 Ed Campbell
- 05/13 Sheila Herrington
- 05/14 Shane Langston
- 05/14 Sarah Langston
- 05/24 Abigail Hernandez

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.



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

Jake Barosh
U.S. Armed Forces



- 05/25 Daniel & Claudia Wilfert

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



COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, May 19th
6:00 p.m.

Pastor Clyde Grier:
Phone: 979-541-6173

FLCEC Manna Meals Team

Our FLCEC Manna Meals Team will be serving on Monday, May 23rd. Please let Cathy Schoenfield know if you will be able to help. Many meals are served on Monday and Thursday each week!

Where all are family and all are fed

National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 5

Theme: Exalt the Lord who has established us

Colossians 2:6 - 7

⁶Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him, ⁷having been firmly rooted and *now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.

WOMEN OF THE WORD

WOW Food Drive
Sunday, May 1st

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



A Prayer for the Day of Pentecost

God our creator, earth has many languages, but your Gospel announces your love to all nations in one heavenly speech. Make us messengers of the good news that, through the power of your Spirit, everyone everywhere may unite in one song of praise; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

May 2022



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

May Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Calvin Borak
SEXTON: Kirk Marek
USHERS: Calvin Borak, Lionel Chatel
ALTAR GUILD: Nerissa House, Kirbie Woods

READER

1st Ty Schoenfield
 8th Kirk Marek
 15th Ted Schoenfield
 22nd Calvin Borak
 29th Cathy Schoenfield

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



MAY FLOWER CALENDAR

1st Open
 8th Open
 15th Open
 22nd Open
 James & Sheila Herrington
 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



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



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

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