

FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

June 2023



Volume 26 No. 6

First Things First

Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Deuteronomy 6: 4-7

In recent months I have had several requests and inquiries seeking to reestablish First Lutheran's historic practice of "early or first" communion. After prayerful consideration of these requests, I have decided to offer instruction or instructional guidance that some of our younger members may come to an understanding of the Sacrament of the Altar. In light of Paul's exhortation to the Corinthian church, I believe it is imperative that anyone participating in the Lord's Table should be able to examine themselves regarding their personal decision to receive the Sacrament. I believe that certain basic Christian teachings should be given for the communicant to grasp the benefit and the holiness inherent in this worship event. Thus, during the coming months of June and July, I will be preaching on those rudimentary doctrines which are vital for a proper understanding of the Lord's supper. (Since Trinity Sunday and Father's Day fall in June and Independence Day in July, there will be pauses in the sermon series for those observances.) To the best of my abilities, I will offer the sermons of this series in such a way that parents and grandparents of those desiring first communion may discuss the sermons with the children: *when they sit in their houses, when they walk by the way, when they lie down, and when they rise* (Deuteronomy 6:7). This is fully proper according to the historic teachings of Lutheranism. Martin Luther as a subtitle to the Small Catechism wrote these words: *as the head of the house should teach them to his household*. For the most beneficial outcome, this will be a cooperative effort between the Sunday sermons and the home reinforcement of parents and grandparents. For those unable to attend some of the sermons, recordings of the messages will be available by e-mail request or by visiting the church's web page.

I believe all teaching and preaching should be Biblically based. Therefore, I offer here my view and foundational belief of the importance of God's word. This will be the subject of the first sermon of this series on June 10th.

I believe all sixty-six books of the canonical Old and New Testaments are the divinely inspired Word of God and I submit to them as the sole source of truth and the final authority in all matters of faith and life; and of which the original documents are inerrant as to fact and infallible as to truth. I believe that the faithful work of scribes and translators committed to this principle have preserved and presented the very words and very thoughts through which God communicates with people today. I believe the Bible should be read and understood literally, unless the text and its context clearly indicate that a

Continued on page 2

passage is to be read figuratively or symbolically. The Bible carries authority over all other writings and thoughts. When I am uncertain or unclear of the interpretation or application of a Bible passage, I apply the scholarly rule that Scripture interprets Scripture; the clear teachings of Scripture shall interpret the complex. This Word of God speaks in two doctrines: Law and Gospel, each may be found in both the Old and New Testaments. The Law is any words, phrases, verses or chapters in which God says what we must do or must not do. This Law brings the knowledge of sin and convicts the human heart of its unworthiness before God. The Gospel is the statements revealing what God has done, is doing or will do for humanity. This Gospel resurrects, revitalizes, refreshes, and restores the spirit that has been killed by the Law. The Gospel is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe. The Word of God endures forever and should not be interpreted in any manner that lessens its validity, purpose or authority. Scripture alone defines good and evil, right and wrong, and the way and means of salvation.

The Word of God carries the message of the Gospel, and that Word is true. I have confidence in the promise of God that, although I once was dead in my transgressions, I have been made alive in the Christ who loves me and gave His life so I may have forgiveness by His grace and mercy!

I pray the Lord will bless this endeavor and live continually in the hearts of those who will soon receive and partake of the Lord's body and blood in the elements of this holy sacrament: May God receive all glory and honor and send the Holy Spirit into the hearts of our younger members.

Remember this: Jesus loves you and so do I! Pastor Grier

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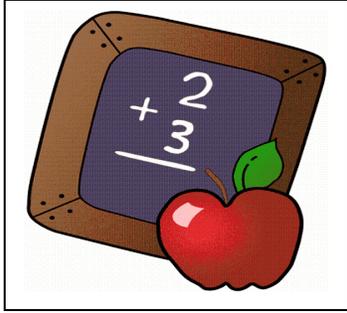
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BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

June 2023

Date	Reading	Date	Reading
1	Genesis 39	16	Exodus 4
2	Genesis 40	17	Exodus 5
3	Genesis 41	18	Exodus 6
4	Genesis 42	19	Exodus 7
5	Genesis 43	20	Exodus 8
6	Genesis 44	21	Exodus 9
7	Genesis 45	22	Exodus 10
8	Genesis 46	23	Exodus 11
9	Genesis 47	24	Exodus 12
10	Genesis 48	25	Exodus 13
11	Genesis 49	26	Exodus 14
12	Genesis 50	27	Exodus 15
13	Exodus 1	28	Exodus 16
14	Exodus 2	29	Exodus 17
15	Exodus 3	30	Exodus 18



First School And Day Care



The First School has 140 children enrolled. We just finished our school year with our Preschool kids and we are so excited about having some summer fun!

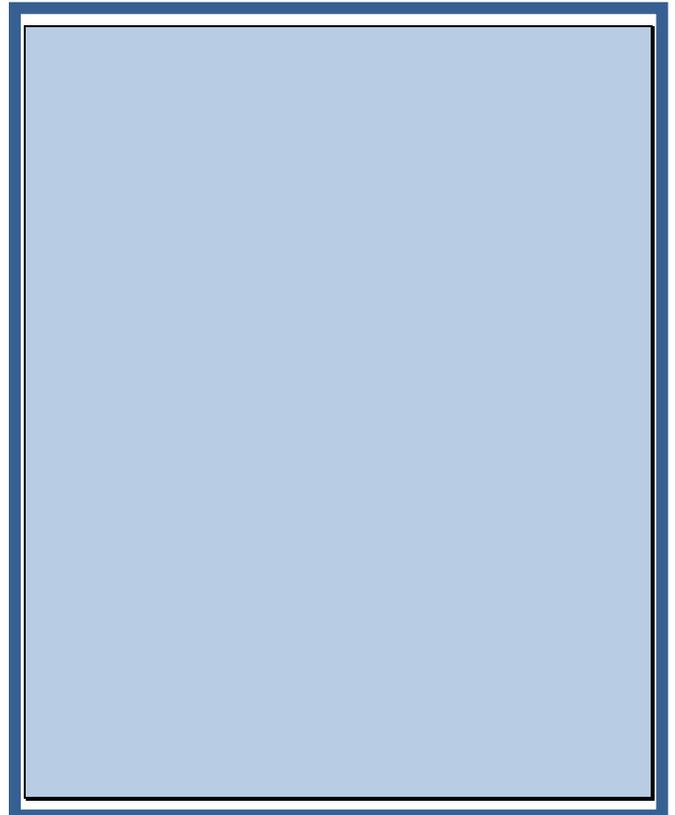
We appreciate everyone who came out to the Preschool graduation in support of the school! It is so important for us to celebrate and highlight these special children that the parents and God has entrusted us with.

The summer is going to be the best yet with our school age children with daily Bible lessons, prayer, and interactive curriculum. We have a few field trips planned as well! Please pray for our summer program as we connect with these children and give them the support, they need so they can have a great summer experience!

Thank you all!

Many Blessings,
Bree Joines
The First School Director

**First School Board Meeting –
Thursday, June 8th, 5:00 p.m.**



JUNE READINGS

06/04 Exodus 19:12-17, Psalm 68:24-27, 1 Corinthians 11:23-34, Luke 2:21-35

06/11 Exodus 19:18-25, Psalm 68:28-31, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Luke 2:36-40

06/18 Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 68:32-35, 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, Luke 2:41-52

06/25 Exodus 20:18-26, Psalm 69:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:27-31, Luke 3:1-9



- 06/09 Asa Lundy
- 06/09 Diane Stewart
- 06/10 LeAnne Lundy
- 06/12 David Kight
- 06/15 Ashlyn Hanna
- 06/20 Helen Kight
- 60/20 Marolyn McMillan
- 06/22 Ruth Speckles
- 06/27 Kirbie Woods
- 06/30 Cecil Anderson

- Our FLC Family**
- Dorothy Atchetee
 - Harlo & Rhonda Atchetee
 - Charles Bard
 - Ron Chambles
 - Shirley Chatel
 - Bonnie Jones
 - Marilyn Kight
 - Larry & Kim Ledwig
 - Lloyd Nelson
 - Jimmy Nielsen
 - Ashley Schoeneberg

Bentley

- Friends of FLC**
- Laurie Cooper
 - Candace
 - Phillip Urbanovsky
 - Norell & D B



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.

- 06/09 Colton Labay
- 06/09 Adeleigh Labay
- 06/16 Nerissa House
- 06/16 Kyle House
- 06/21 Thomas Hernandez
- 06/30 Ellis Lundy



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

WE'RE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US



OR



- 06/09 Joshua & Sarah Barosh
- 06/17 Kevin & Cori Koudela
- 06/27 Chris & Ryan Hanna

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

Phone: 979-543-5847
Email: office@firstlutheranec.com



COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, June 15th
6:00 p.m.

Pastor Clyde Grier:
Phone: 979-541-6173

FLCEC Manna Meals Team

Our FLCEC Manna Meals Team will serve on Thursday, June 8th. Please check with Cathy Schoenfield to see how you can help.



You are invited to come out on Sunday, June 11, to wish Helen Kight a "Happy 90th Birthday!"

Where: Helen's House
3294 S St Hwy 71
Time: 3:00 p.m. till...

Please RSVP to Cathy at 979-543-3001

First School Board

Thursday, June 8th
5:00 p.m.

Church Council

Thursday, June 15th
6:00 p.m.

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



Pre-Gathering Seminar:

(To explore theme more deeply)
Seminar begins Friday, July 28th, at 1:00 p.m. To attend add \$20 more.

Youth Gathering & Lock-In for Grades 6-12 held concurrently!

LCMC Texas District Gathering

July 28 - 29, 2023

(4:30 p.m. Friday evening – 3:45 p.m. Saturday)
St. Paul, New Braunfels, TX

Theme: Sent (Acts 1:8)

Keynote Speaker: Tilaye Daba

Tickets: \$75 thru 6/30, \$100 after 6/30
(includes T Shirt)

To Register: Forms are available in the church office
Or register online:

www.lcmctexas.org/annual-gathering

June 2023



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

June Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Pat Marek

SEXTON: Doug Mathews

USHERS: Ted Schoenfield, Gaynard Wigginton

ALTAR GUILD: Cathy Schoenfield,
Billie Jean Bram

READER

4th Kirk Marek
11th Ted Schoenfield
18th Calvin Borak
25th Cathy Schoenfield

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



JUNE FLOWER CALENDAR

4th Open
11th Open
18th Open
25th 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, Will Joines, Karen Kight, Kim Ledwig, Kirk Marek, Cindy Mathews & Doug Mathews

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.**