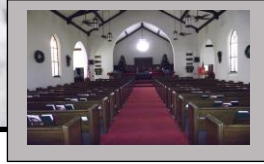


FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

July 2021



Volume 24 No. 7

First Things First...

THIS IS THE ACCOUNT OF THE FAMILY LINE...

This is the account of the family line of Esau (that is, Edom).

Genesis 36:1

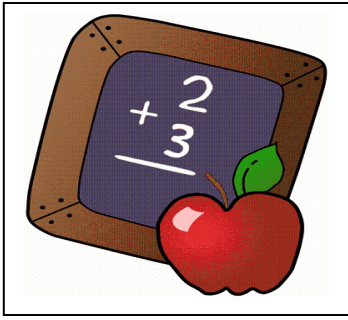
I am so thankful for the labor of a cousin (second or third?) on my mother's side of my family tree. Several years ago, Betty had compiled a binder of the family ancestry and progeny. Her storehouse of information became mine. Along with that documentation, I also have possession of my paternal great-grandmother's family Bible which includes a recounting of her children and their spouses. Until receiving these two precious heritage pieces, I had little to no thought concerning the importance of family history. Perusing the information in these sources, I have experienced a desire to "know" my relatives and the ways we are connected.

Likewise, the celebration of First Lutheran's 125th anniversary permitted me the opportunity to examine the history of the congregation and the family connections that exist among the members to this day. Hearing the stories of fifth and sixth generation family relationships within the Body of Christ worshipping within the walls of the church, I have a greater appreciation for the members' dedication to the Lord, subsequently passing the Gospel to each succeeding generation.

The First Lesson each Sunday in July will be a reading from Genesis 36. The names will be tongue-twisters and sound strange to our ears. Many people question reading the names of ancient peoples, since those names are meaningless to us. They and others have difficulty finding interest in any of the genealogies recorded in the Bible. Some Christians object to this particular chapter because it is a listing of the descendants of Esau. It is from these very peoples that many of current-day enemies of Israel claim the birthright to the Holy Land. So, why do we read this difficult, incomprehensible and (to some) antagonistic genealogy?

- 1) The relationship between Jacob (Israel) and Esau (Edom) was extremely positive at the time. Esau had forgiven Jacob for his chicanery in obtaining Esau's birthright and for Jacob's fraudulent theft of Isaac's blessing. Jacob approached Esau in humility and Esau responded with gracious forgiveness.
- 2) The magnitude of Esau's forgiveness revealed by the extensive family named reinforces that the strength of the two parties weighed heavily in Esau's favor (see Genesis 33:1). Thus, Moses' recording underscores his recognition of Esau's mercy.
- 3) They (Israel and Edom) are, after all, descendants of the same ancestors. Although they are bitter enemies, there is no denying the kinship of their heritages.

(continued on page 6)



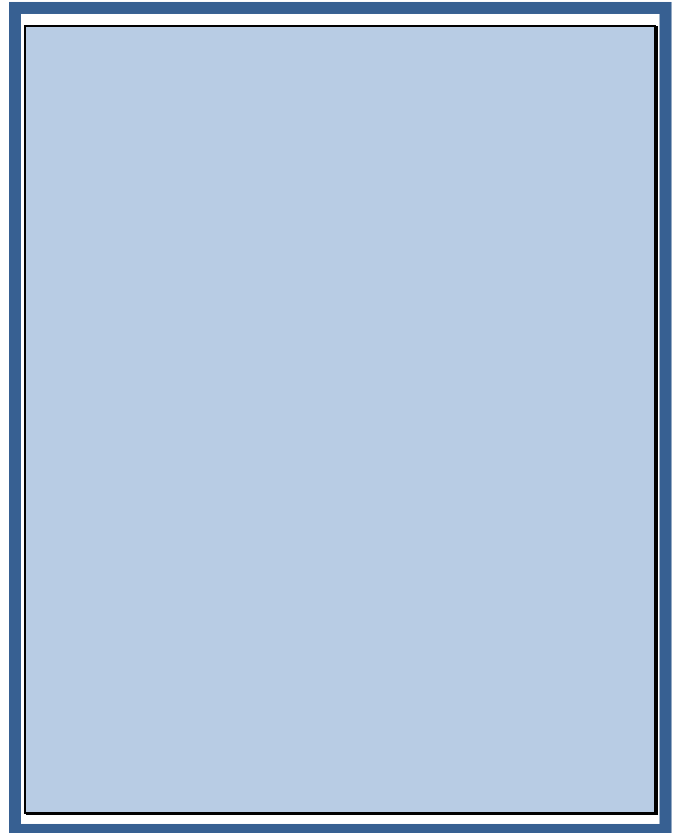
First School And Day Care



First School has 121 children enrolled. We are having a fun and engaging summer! Our summer curriculum has Bible lessons everyday along with other fun games and activities. We will have Vacation Bible School from July 19 - 22. We are looking forward to a great rest of the summer!

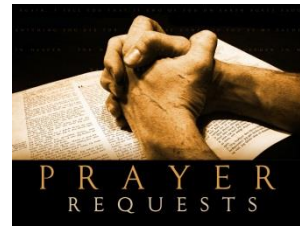
Many Blessings,
Bree Joines
First School Director

**First School Board Meeting –
Tuesday, July 13th, 5:00 p.m.**



JULY READINGS

- 07/04 Psalm 36:7-12; Genesis 36:9-14, Acts 26:1-11, Matthew 23:1-12
- 07/11 Psalm 37: 1-7; Genesis 36:15-19, Acts 26:12-23, Matthew 23:13-22
- 07/18 Psalm 37:8-15; Genesis 36:20-30, Acts 26:24-32, Matthew 23:23-28
- 07/25 Psalm 37:16-20; Genesis 36:31-43, Acts 27:1-12, Matthew 23:29-39



- 07/05 Lynda Christenberry
- 07/10 Charlotte Watson
- 07/11 Jimmy Nielsen
- 07/12 Jan Nelson
- 07/20 Charles Bard
- 07/23 Gloria Campbell
- 07/24 Matthew Stewart
- 07/26 Linda Atchetee
- 07/31 Billie Jean Bram

- Our FLC Family**
- Dorothy Atchetee
 - Harlo & Rhonda Atchetee
 - Charles Bard
 - Ron Chambles
 - Lynda Christenberry
 - James & Sheila Herrington
 - Nora Hollingsworth
 - Harry & Marilyn Kight
 - Kim & Larry Ledwig
 - John Nelson
 - Odus Newton
 - Ruth Speckels
 - Charlotte Watson

- Friends of FLC**
- Pete Daniels
 - Todd Socha



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.

- 07/12 Gaynard Wigginton
- 07/17 Benjamin Hernandez
- 07/19 Nora Borak
- 07/22 Kathleen Joines
- 07/24 Harry Kight



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

Jake Barosh
U.S. Armed Forces



WE'RE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US



OR



- 07/13 Leroy & Billie Jean Bram
- 07/24 Pastor Clyde & Alys Grier

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

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



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

Pastor Clyde Grier:
Phone: 979-541-6173

FLCEC Manna Meals Team

Our turn to serve at Manna Meals will be on Monday, July 12th.

Thank you to our members who have been faithful in providing food for meals and also serving at Manna Meals as part of our First Lutheran Team!

Fun?? Food?? Fellowship??

WHAT: First Lutheran Church Picnic

WHERE: Pierce Ranch Compound

WHEN: Saturday, July 31, 2021

3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

If you need transportation, please contact the church office.

WOMEN OF THE WORD

WOW Food Drive
Sunday, July 4th

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



Pre-Gathering Seminars:

Women's Seminar-

For all women

Leadership Seminar-

For Pastors and all Ministry Leaders
(Both seminars begin Friday, July 30th, at 12:30 p.m. To attend add \$15 more.)

LCMC Texas District Gathering

July 30 - 31, 2021

(5:00 p.m. Friday evening – 4:15 p.m. Saturday)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

4102 N. Ben Jordan St., Victoria, TX

Keynote Speakers: Dave Drum

Ted Doering

Rick & Robyn Bezanson

Tickets: \$60 thru 7/8, \$75 after 7/8

Included – Refreshments & "Shine" t-shirt

To Register: Forms are available in the church office

Or register online:

www.lcmctexas.org/annual-gathering



July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion WOW Food Drive	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM	12 Manna Meals FLCEC Team serves 5-6:30 PM	13 First School Board Meeting 5PM 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 LCMC Texas District Gathering Victoria	31 Church Picnic Pierce Ranch 3-7PM

July Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Calvin Borak

SEXTON: David Kight

USHERS: Odis Newton, Alvin Yackel

ALTAR GUILD: Nora Borak, Diane Stewart,
Haley Orsak

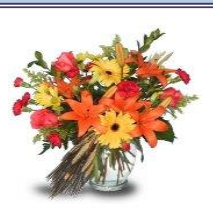
ACOLYTES

4th
11th
18th
25th

READER

Ty Schoenfield
Kirk Marek
Ted Schoenfield
Cathy Schoenfield

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



JULY FLOWER CALENDAR

4th Kirk & Pat Marek
11th Open
18th Open
25th Open

- 4) The genealogies of the Scriptures serve as historical markers. As modern-day archeologists discover extra-Biblical records of the same names on pottery, tablets (stone not digital), jewelry, walls and any other ancient artifacts, the Bible's truth and accuracy is repeatedly underscored. These are real people in a real time of history.
- 5) The names all mean something, when translated instead of transcribed. Of course, it would take someone with a much greater intellect and stronger perseverance than I possess in order to work a translation of all the names. Examples for this point include Jacob's firstborn, Reuben, so named because his mother said, *"The Lord has surely looked on my affliction."* (Genesis 29:32ff lists the first eleven sons of Jacob and the reasons for their names which all relate to their mothers' circumstances.)
- 6) This genealogy substantiates God's interest in all people, Jew and Gentile; Christian, atheist, agnostic, pagan, idolater; male and female; foreigners are also included (Genesis 36:20-29). *(God) wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth* (1 Timothy 2:4).
- 7) Finally, the genealogy of Esau is included in the Bible, thus, we read it because it is the Word of God. We may find some passages confusing to our finite understanding, boring to our action-craving hearts or disconnected from the rest of Holy Writ because of our inability to see the *"end from the beginning."* *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

I pray this explanation helps in our reading this chapter of God's Word, as we continue our public reading of the whole Bible.

In the Master's service
Pastor Grier

+ + + + + +

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE July 2021

Date	Reading	Date	Reading
1	2 Chronicles 36	17	Ezra 9
2	1 Corinthians 10	18	Ezra 10
3	1 Corinthians 11	19	Nehemiah 1
4	1 Corinthians 12	20	Nehemiah 2
5	1 Corinthians 13	21	Nehemiah 3
6	1 Corinthians 14	22	Nehemiah 4
7	1 Corinthians 15	23	Nehemiah 5
8	1 Corinthians 16	24	Nehemiah 6
9	Ezra 1	25	Nehemiah 7
10	Ezra 2	26	Nehemiah 8
11	Ezra 3	27	Nehemiah 9
12	Ezra 4	28	Nehemiah 10
13	Ezra 5	29	Nehemiah 11
14	Ezra 6	30	Nehemiah 12
15	Ezra 7	31	Nehemiah 13
16	Ezra 8		

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: 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.