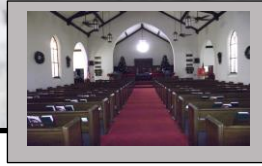


# FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

September 2021



Volume 24 No. 9

## First Things First...

### This I Believe

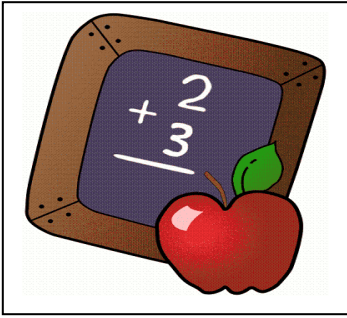
*"...in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect."*  
1 Peter 3:15

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 series of statements which began in the February 2020 edition of *First Fruits*, I plan to share a summary of what I believe so that you may know me more fully and so you may see the reason for the hope that is in me. I resume the series with this article is the first installment stating my belief regarding marriage and human sexuality.

*So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them (Genesis 1:27). Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him...And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man...Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (Genesis 2:18,22,24). Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral (Hebrews 13:4). "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband (Ephesians 5:31-33). I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery (Matthew 5:32).*

These verses, among others, are the foundation for my statement of belief regarding marriage: From the beginning of human existence God instituted and intended the perpetual characteristic of marriage to be a covenantal relationship that is heterosexual, monogamous, faithful and lifelong.

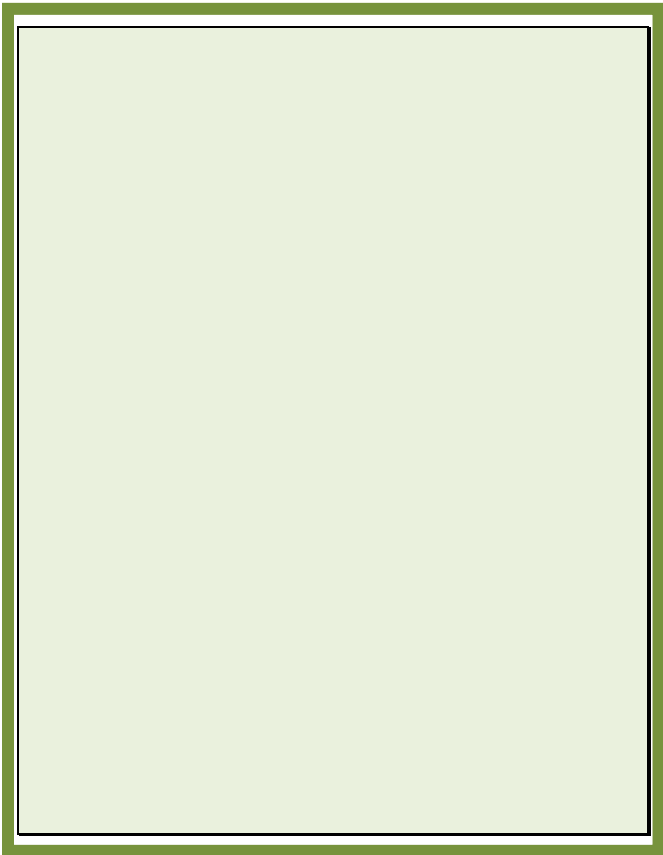
**Monogamous:** While the Bible never says directly, "A man shall have one wife, and a wife shall have one husband," one can readily discern from the compiled texts above that God intends for marriage to be a monogamous estate. The LORD did not create several women to be Adam's complementary mates. God created one woman, Eve, to be Adam's lifelong companion. In the Hebrew text, the reading fortifies this monogamy by the singular nouns a man and a woman. The bonding of these two into a new family becomes apparent in reading: and *they* shall become *one* flesh. Additionally, consider the Ephesian text declaring marriage as a picture of the marriage between of Christ and the One, True Church. There are not many Christs but one Christ. There are not many Churches (not to be confused with denominations) but One, True Church which is the body of all who are true disciples of the Christ. This view of monogamy is reinforced by Jesus in His teachings.



# First School And Day Care

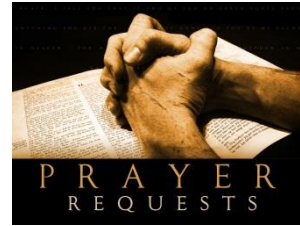


**First School Board Meeting –  
Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.**



## SEPTEMBER READINGS

- 09/05 Psalm 38:18-22; Genesis 39:1-10, Acts 28:17-24, Matthew 25:14-30
- 09/12 Psalm 39:1-6; Genesis 39:11-23, Acts 28:25-31, Matthew 25:31-46
- 09/19 Psalm 39:7-13; Genesis 40:1-15, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 26:1-5
- 09/26 Psalm 40:1-8; Genesis 40:16-23, Romans 1:8-17, Matthew 26:6-13



- 09/07 Harry Kight
- 09/12 Ty Mathews
- 09/12 Linda Korenek
- 09/19 Will Joines
- 09/20 Luke Langston
- 09/21 Diego Hernandez
- 09/21 Adeleigh Labay
- 09/24 Marilyn Kight
- 09/26 Sawyer Schoenfield

**Our FLC Family**  
 Dorothy Atchetee  
 Harlo & Rhonda Atchetee  
 Charles Bard  
 Ron Chambles  
 Lynda Christenberry  
 Pastor & Alys Grier  
 & Bentley  
 Nora Hollingsworth  
 Will Joines  
 The Joines Family  
 Harry & Marilyn Kight  
 Linda Korenek  
 Kevin & Cori Koudela  
 Bram & baby Boy  
 Kim & Larry Ledwig

John Nelson  
 Odis Newton  
 Ruth Speckels  
 Charlotte Watson

**Friends of FLC**  
 Pete Daniels  
 Todd Socha  
 Doris Berglund  
 Ryan Hanna  
 Aubri's daughter  
 Azeneth Knudson



- 09/07 James Herrington
- 09/12 Jimmy Nielsen
- 09/13 Will Joines
- 09/17 Charles Bard
- 09/20 Kim Kainer
- 09/23 Milton Johnson
- 09/23 Luke Langston
- 09/25 Emery Langston

*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  
 U.S. Armed Forces

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



- 09/07 Ed & Gloria Campbell
- 09/27 Shane & Heather Langston



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, September 16<sup>th</sup>  
 6:00 p.m.

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

## FLCEC Manna Meals Team

Our Manna Meals team will serve on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Please check with Cathy Schoenfield to see how you can help.

Thank you to our volunteers who help with this community out-reach effort.

Volunteers are always welcome!

**If you are a teacher, hold onto 1 Corinthians 15:58 and James 1:5 as the new school year begins.**

*Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.* 1 Corinthians 15:58 CSB

*Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him.* James 1:5 CSB

**If you are a student, make it your aim to never lose sight of Proverbs 4:13.**

*Hold on to instruction; don't let go. Guard it, for it is your life.* Proverbs 4:13 CSB

## WOMEN OF THE WORD

**WOW Food Drive**  
Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>

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



## LCMC 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Gathering

**October 3-6, 2021**

**Upper Arlington Lutheran Church**

Hilliard, Ohio

**Theme: Speak It – Live It – Share It**

**Keynote Speakers -- Fellowship – Worship**

**Bible Study – Networking – Vendors**

**Breakout Sessions - Recognitions**

For more information visit:

[www.lcmc.net/annual-gathering](http://www.lcmc.net/annual-gathering)

# September 2021



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

## September Responsibilities

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Ted Schoenfield

**SEXTON:** Daniel Wilfert

**USHERS:** Doug Mathews, Ed Campbell

**ALTAR GUILD:** Pat Marek, Ruth Speckels

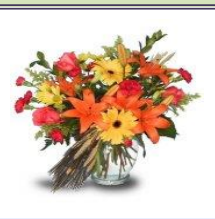
### ACOLYTES

5<sup>th</sup>  
12<sup>th</sup>  
19<sup>th</sup>  
26<sup>th</sup>

### READER

Cathy Schoenfield  
Diane Stewart  
Helen Johnson  
Ty Schoenfield

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



## SEPTEMBER FLOWER CALENDAR

5<sup>th</sup> Open  
12<sup>th</sup> Open  
19<sup>th</sup> Jimmy & Kathy Joines  
26<sup>th</sup> Shane & Heather Langston

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

304 Oscar  
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: 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](http://WWW.FIRSTLUTHERANEC.COM)



**Join us on Sunday mornings!**

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