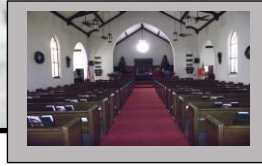


# FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

November 2021



Volume 24 No. 11

*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 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 continue the series with my belief regarding human sexuality.

Human sexuality has become a controversial and volatile issue. Addressing the topic exposes many to virulent attack. In the ensuing columns, I will offer what I pray will be a coherent sampling of Biblical statements regarding human sexuality and sexual behavior, bearing in mind that my defense is to be presented with gentleness and respect.

The premise for these articles will be based on 1Corinthians 5:9-13. *I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world or the greedy and swindlers or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of a brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. Purge the evil person from among you.”*

I view the key phrases in this passage to be “not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world...” and “anyone who bears the name of a brother...” (emphases mine). This passage is directed to the members of a Christian fellowship who were “tolerating” a willful, obstinate and continuing case of sinful behavior by one of their own. Without a living relationship with the Lord, the power of the sinful nature distorts the thoughts and emotions. Once the rebirth in faith occurs, the believer gains the true understanding of the precepts, commandments and truth of Holy Scripture. For the person confessing Christ as Savior and Lord, the new creation of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 5:17) dies to the power and control of sin (Romans 6:1-14). This growth in the Spirit takes time, but for the disciples of Christ, the Word of God determines right from wrong and good from evil. The Body of Christ (the Church) is called to examine itself to maintain the righteousness of God as a hallmark of existence. There is no place for sin in the Christian congregation.

(continued on page 2)

I am not saying that inquisitions or “witch hunts” should be the identity of our churches. However, we dare not permit continuing sinful behavior among the members of our congregations. We should not turn a “blind eye” to sin which warrants the condemnation of our Lord (see Revelation 2:20-23). Christian congregations should be “lights in the darkness” and “cities set on the hilltops” proclaiming and living in the righteousness of the Savior. I will continue this series with a look into some of the most commonly “tolerated” behaviors that pollute and threaten Christian congregations.

The next installment of this topic will be in the January issue of “First Fruits.” The December column will be directed to the celebration of Christ’s birth and our looking toward spiritual growth in the coming new year.

Remember: Jesus loves you and so do I!

Pastor Grier

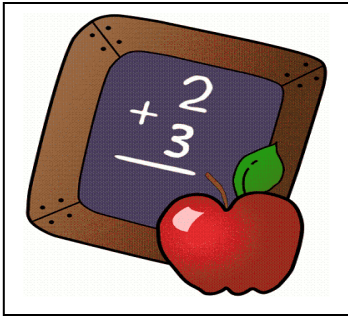
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### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2021

Date	Reading	Date	Reading
1	Ruth 2	16	1 Samuel 6
2	Ruth 3	17	1 Samuel 7
3	Ruth 4	18	1 Samuel 8
4	John 1	19	1 Samuel 9
5	John 2	20	1 Samuel 10
6	John 3	21	1 Samuel 11
7	John 4	22	1 Samuel 12
8	John 5	23	1 Samuel 13
9	John 6	24	1 Samuel 14
10	John 7	25	1 Samuel 15
11	1 Samuel 1	26	John 8
12	1 Samuel 2	27	John 9
13	1 Samuel 3	28	John 10
14	1 Samuel 4	29	John 11
15	1 Samuel 5	30	John 12

**Notice:**

**The Church Council has called for a voters’ meeting on Sunday, November 7, 2021, immediately after the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the congregation’s Ordination and Commissioning of David Kight as an authorized Pulpit Supply and Interim Pastor.**



# First School And Day Care



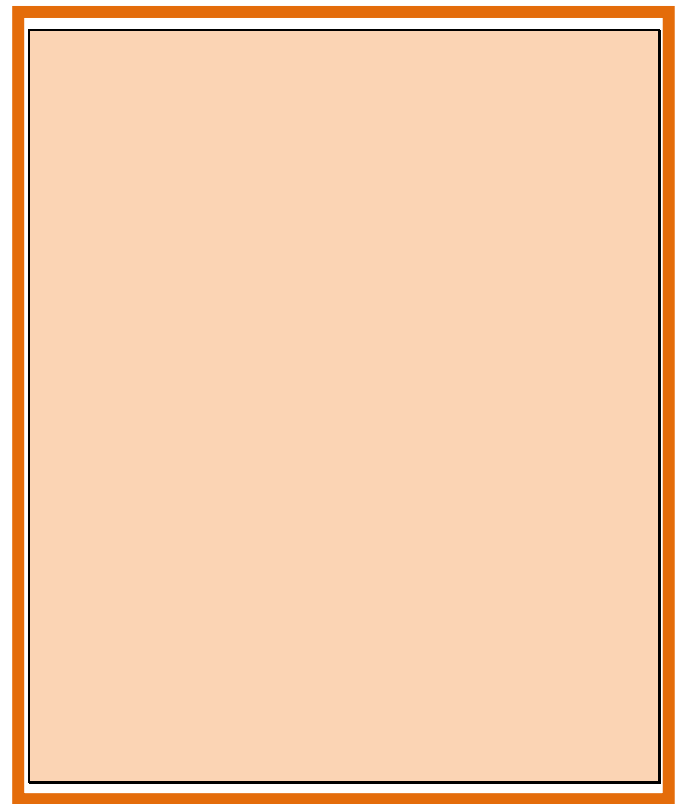
The First School has 115 children and we are full until next fall. As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to say how thankful my heart is for God blessing us with so many kids and teachers. We can reach out and touch so many hearts and lives each day! We offer help to not only the children and teachers, but to the parents in our community as well. We are also thankful for the support of our church family.

I want to thank those who came out to our annual Trunk or Treat Event in front of the church on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is always such a blast with our school families. A special "Thank You" to our school board members for your help in making this happen by donating your time, decorating your trunk, and interacting with these kids and their families! It means so much!

Many Blessings!

Bree Joines

The First School Director



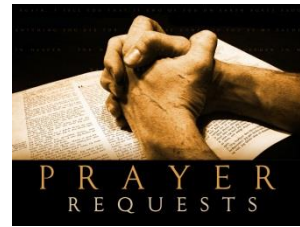
**First School Board Meeting –  
Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.**

## NOVEMBER READINGS

- 11/07 Psalm 41:8-10; Genesis 41:46-57, Romans 2:17-29, Matthew 26:57-68
- 11/14 Psalm 41:11-13; Genesis 42:1-24, Romans 3:1-8, Matthew 26:69-75
- 11/21 Psalm 42:1-6; Genesis 42:25-38, Romans 3:9-20, Matthew 27:1-10
- 11/28 Psalm 42:7-11; Genesis 43:1-16, Romans 3:21-31, Matthew 27:11-31



- 11/02 Ted Schoenfield
- 11/15 Bram Koudela
- 11/19 Joshua Barosh
- 11/25 Franklin Ahlschlager, Jr.
- 11/29 Nerissa House



**Our FLC Family**

- Dorothy Atchetee
- Harlo & Rhonda Atchetee
- Charles Bard
- Ron Chambles
- Lynda Christenberry
- Warren & Helen Johnson
- Nora Hollingsworth
- Marilyn Kight
- Kim & Larry Ledwig
- John Nelson
- Odis Newton
- Ruth Speckels

**Friends of FLC**

- Ryan Hanna
- Joan Carter
- Gerald Ripple
- Daniel Kocurek
- Ellwood Hermansen



- 11/01 Robert Hollingsworth
- 11/03 Kirbie Woods
- 11/16 Nikolas Woodson
- 11/16 Ryan Woodson
- 11/20 Sarah Barosh
- 11/20 Teagan Stewart-Gallegos
- 11/23 Sharon Nielsen
- 11/24 Linda Korenek
- 11/27 Marilyn Kight
- 11/29 Lynette Hernandez

*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**



- 11/07 Milton & Loretta Johnson

**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](mailto:office@firstlutheranec.com)



**COUNCIL MEETING**  
Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

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

## Manna Meals

Our FLCEC Manna Meals Team will be serving on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Please let Cathy Schoenfield know if you will be able to help. The team welcomes anyone who would like to come and help with this outreach effort!

Where all are family and all are fed

+ + + + + + + +

## Fall Back!

On Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, daylight saving time ends! Remember to “fall back” – turn your clocks back one hour so you will be on time for our morning service.

## A Thanksgiving Thought

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

## WOMEN OF THE WORD

**WOW Food Drive**  
Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



## Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day  
Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>  
**All are welcome!**

Plans are being made to continue this annual event. Because of the pandemic, precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of the volunteers and the community.

Donations are needed for this free city wide Thanksgiving Dinner. Monetary donations are welcomed to help defray the cost of this meal. An account has been set up at First State Bank in El Campo.

# November 2021



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

## November Responsibilities

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Pat Marek  
**SEXTON:** Gaynard Wigginton  
**USHERS:** Calvin Borak, Daniel Wilfert  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Sheila Herrington, Becky Sample

### ACOLYTES

7<sup>th</sup>  
14<sup>th</sup>  
21<sup>st</sup>  
28<sup>th</sup>

### READER

Kirk Marek  
Ted Schoenfield  
Cathy Schoenfield  
Diane Stewart

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



## NOVEMBER FLOWER CALENDAR

7<sup>th</sup> Jimmy & Kathy Joines  
14<sup>th</sup> Jimmy & Sharon Nielsen  
21<sup>st</sup> Open  
28<sup>th</sup> Shane & Heather Langston

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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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.**