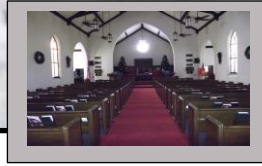


FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

November 2023



Volume 26 No. 11

First Things First...

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.
Genesis 8:20

The act of worship involving the sacrifice of an animal extends back through the generations of humanity, all the way to Cain and Abel. However, Genesis 8: 20 is the first recorded act of worship in which the worshipper, in this instance Noah, built an altar for the sacrifice. There are at least twenty-seven cases (in the English Standard Version) specifically mentioning the building of an altar. Most of these accounts document the work of an individual in thankful response to a blessing from God.

Meditating on this verse, I was struck by what some may consider an abstract interpretation or as some might say is one of my favorite activities, chasing down another rabbit trail. This is the thought that occurred: whenever an individual built an altar, it took time. Exiting from the ark's voyage of at least a year, the first activity of Noah was to build an altar. While we're not provided elaborate or intricate details of these early structures, they nonetheless served the purpose of providing God with delightful BBQ. Verse 21 reveals: *"And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma..."* Certainly, God did not NEED the food. But the love expressed in the giving, in taking the time to recognize the Lord for his gifts of love lead to future blessings. Verse 21 continues: *...The Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. While the earth remains, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."* Blessings upon future blessings poured out because one man, one person, made the time to offer thankful worship to the Lord.

Again, on the fourth Thursday of November our nation will observe a national holiday called Thanksgiving Day. To some people it will be simply another day. Some people will move from the football games on television to engorge themselves on the day's feast and then they will return to their games. Some people will pause for the first time this year and say an abbreviated prayer of thankfulness to the God of blessings. For most people who identify as

Christians, these will pause and for the umpteenth time worship in thankful prayer and praise. Very likely, these latter ones are the ones who realize their daily blessings from God our Father. These latter ones are those who realize that the Lord's salvation is freely and abundantly theirs every day. These latter ones are they who most likely gather with fellow believers on a regular basis to praise, to worship, to hear the Lord's Word on Sunday mornings as frequently as they are able. Recognizing that God's faithfulness is renewed every morning, they respond by taking the time, by making the time to build an altar of worshipful thanksgiving for the forgiveness of their sins and for the hope of eternal life. When Christians take and make the time to worship publicly and corporately, they are giving of their time to build altars of thanksgiving even as did Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and so many others who are our ancestors in faith.

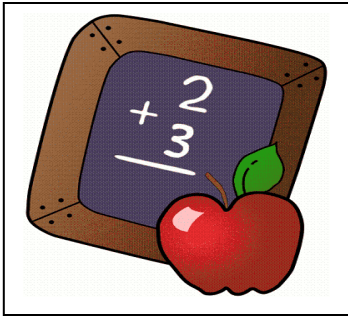
Will you take the time to build an altar of thanks to the Lord next Sunday?

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

+ + + + + +

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2023

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



First School And Day Care



The First School would like to thank everyone who came out to the Pumpkin Patch to help or to interact with our community. It was especially heartwarming to see Pastor and Alys in their matching pumpkin shirts taking pics for families in front of the fall tree! Joy was everywhere and you could not help having a smile on your face as you walked around seeing the children having fun and families excited to take their fall family photos! We are more and more assured each year that we were meant for this task to continue something that our community holds dear as it is such a rewarding experience.

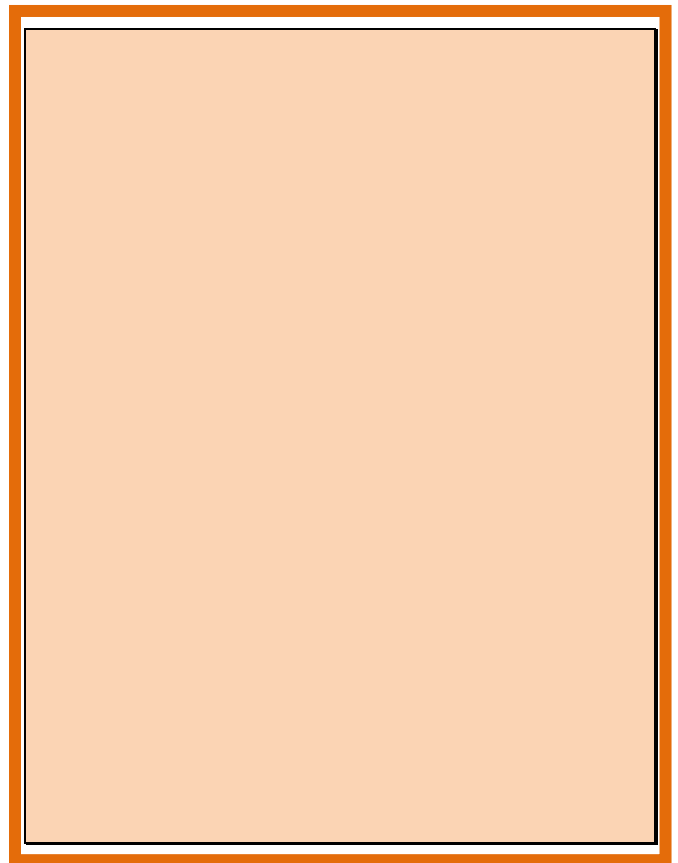
We would also like to thank all our church members for either hosting a trunk or coming out to enjoy our annual Trunk or Treat event in front of the church. Both events were so wonderful! It is important for us to interact with our families outside the walls of the church as it is such a rewarding experience! As we enter this season of thanksgiving, I would like to thank God for this community and this congregation!

The Best is Yet to Come! To God be the glory!

Many Blessings!

Bree Joines

The First School Director



**First School Board Meeting –
Thursday, November 9th, 5:00 p.m.**

NOVEMBER READINGS

- 11/05 Exodus 25:23-30, Psalm 72:8-11, 2 Corinthians 1:12-24, Luke 6:27-39
- 11/12 Exodus 25:31-40, Psalm 72:12-14, 2 Corinthians 2:1-11, Luke 7:1-10
- 11/19 Exodus 26:1-14, Psalm 72:15-17, 2 Corinthians 2:12-17, Luke 7:11-17
- 11/26 Exodus 26:15-25, Psalm 72:18-20, 2 Corinthians 3:1-6, Luke 7:18-30



- 11/02 Ted Schoenfield
- 11/15 Bram Koudela
- 11/29 Nerissa House



Our FLC Family

- Cecil Anderson
- Dorothy Atchetee
- Harlo & Rhonda Atchetee
- Ron Chambles
- Shirley Chatel
- Alys Grier
- Marilyn Kight
- Kim & Larry Ledwig
- Lloyd Nelson
- Jimmy Nielsen
- Ashely Schoeneberg
- Bentley

Friends of FLC

- Juana
- Candace J
- Phillip U
- Sherrie Z
- Gerald R
- Charles Petersen



- 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 1st 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



COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, November 20th
6:00 p.m.

Pastor Clyde Grier:
Phone: 979-541-6173

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Fall Back!

On Sunday, November 5th, daylight saving time ends! Remember to "fall back" – turn your clocks back one hour so you will be on time for our morning service.

+ + + + + + + +

Let our lives be full of both

*thanks
and giving*

Thankful

First School Board

Thursday, November 9th
5:00 p.m.

Church Council

Monday, November 20th
6:00 p.m.
(Note the change to Monday!)

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 23rd
All are welcome!

Plans are being made to continue this annual event.

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.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever..."

Psalm 107:1



November 2023



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 First School Board 5PM	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM	13	14	15 Newsletter Items Due	16	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion	20 Church Council 6PM	21	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM	27	28	29	30		

November Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Pat Marek
SEXTON: Gaynard Wigginton
USHERS: Calvin Borak
ALTAR GUILD: Sheila Herrington, Sarah Barosh

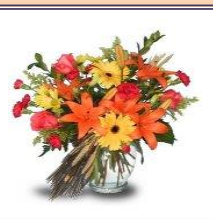
ACOLYTES

5th
12th
19th
26th

READER

Ty Schoenfield
Clayton Joines
Kirk Marek
Ted Schoenfield

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



NOVEMBER FLOWER CALENDAR

5th Open
 12th Jimmy & Sharon Nielsen
 19th Open
 26th 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

November

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.