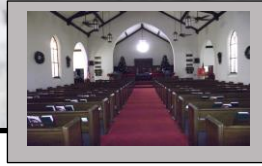


FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

December 2020



Volume 23 No. 12

First Things First...

THE HOLY-DAYS

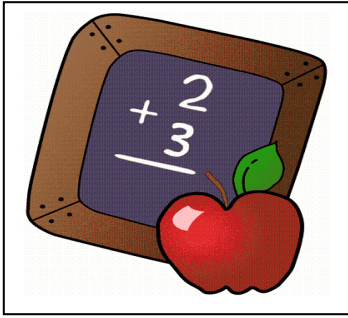
***So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31***

For this holiday issue of First Fruits, I rest from the presentation series "This I Believe." The series will resume next month with an examination of the Ten Commandments.

This truly is a holiday (and please read that as "holy-day") season. We are in the immediate past of Thanksgiving. Christmas approaches at a ferocious pace. The New Year tailgates on the Nativity Celebration. The maddening rush to prepare for and celebrate these three occasions in the space of some five weeks can rattle and uphinge even the most organized hosts and hostesses. It is a monumental undertaking that can disturb the serenity of praise to our Lord for all He has done, is doing and will do for us.

The verse above is lifted out of context but readily speaks to the heart of all our celebrations, particularly at this time of year. We should be thankful to the Lord as were the Pilgrims. Death had decimated their population in the first few years of their sojourning in their new homeland. With the guidance and schooling they received from the native residents the settlers had hope to remain in their colonized lands without the fear of starvation. They remembered to express thanks for survival, the help and education given by the indigenous people, and the expectation that the continuance of their adventure could succeed. Likewise, our Thanksgiving celebrations should also remember that God is the giver of all good things, the strength we need at our weakest moments and our constant hope of victory in life and over death.

The festival most easily commemorating the Lord's provision for our benefit and therefore a cause of merriment carries the source of its observance within its name: CHRIST-mas! The Father sent the Son who willingly surrendered the glories of heaven for the lowliest of earthly entrances: birth in in a stable. Yes, it is likely that because of the name the vast majority of celebrants at least nominally acknowledge the religious nature of the festivities. However, the pressures of gift-giving, party-planning and decadent-decorating make difficult any reasonable chance of making Jesus the focus of attention. Let us do our best to keep our attention centered on God's gift to us. We need to assess our schedule every day, leaving time to contemplate God's gracious gift of His Son.



First School And Day Care

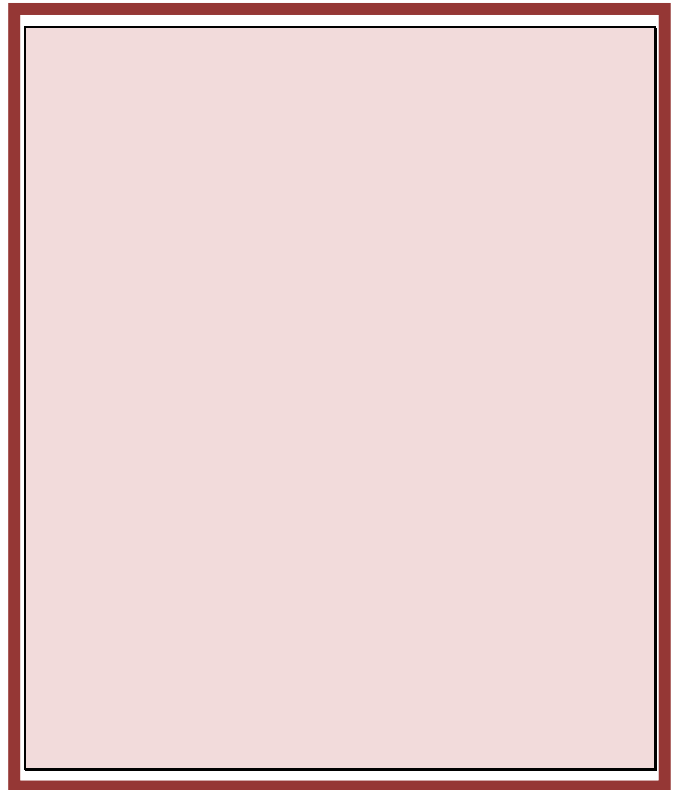


First School currently has 87 children and we are looking forward to this Christmas season! The children will be learning the story of Christ's birth and celebrating with songs and festivities throughout this month. Our Preschool classes will put on a program for their parents called "Christmas in our Jammies". For the program the children will sing songs about Christ's birth as they are being read a Christmas bedtime story. We are looking forward to this wonderful time and we hope you all have a blessed Christmas!

Many Blessings,
Bree Joines
First School Director

**First School Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 8th, 5:00 p.m.**

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**FLCEC Manna Meals Team
serves on Monday, December 7th!**

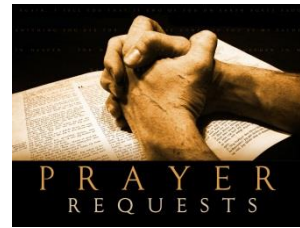


DECEMBER READINGS

- 12/06 Psalm 25:19-22; Genesis 27:30-40, Acts 17:16-21, Matthew 14:13-21
- 12/13 Psalm 26:1-7; Genesis 27:41-28:9, Acts 17:22-34, Matthew 14:22-33
- 12/20 Psalm 26:8-12; Genesis 28:10-22, Acts 18:1-11, Matthew 14:34-15:9
- 12/27 Psalm 27:1-7; Genesis 29:1-12, Acts 18:12-17, Matthew 15:10-20

happy birthday

- 12/08 Leroy Bram
- 12/08 James Stewart
- 12/09 Ed Campbell
- 12/13 Doug Mathews
- 12/13 Daniel Wilfert
- 12/15 Jake Herrington
- 12/15 Jacqueline Lundy
- 12/18 Pat Marek
- 12/19 Karen Kight
- 12/21 Kim Ledwig
- 12/25 Loretta Johnson
- 12/26 Cori Koudela
- 12/28 Emma Jo Barosh
- 12/31 Callie Dujka
- 12/31 Cash Dujka



Our FLC Family

- Dorothy Atchetee
- Harlo & Rhonda Atchetee
- Charles Bard
- Ron Chambles
- James & Sheila Herrington
- Nora Hollingsworth
- Boogie & Marilyn Kight
- Kim & Larry Ledwig
- John Nelson
- Odis Newton
- Ruth Speckles
- Charlotte Watson
- Larry & Cheryl Young

Friends of FLC

- Lucille
- Dustin & Catherine Sless
- Riley Sless
- Camille Flisowski
- Jolene
- Joy Roppolo
- Chad Rodgers
- Dustin Chudalla
- Dillon & Kori Berglund
& Baby Charlie Ann
- Todd Socha



- 12/07 Michael Barosh
- 12/14 Lori Cykala
- 12/23 Becky Sample
- 12/23 Ted Schoenfield
- 12/26 Daniel Wilfert



PRAY FOR OUR
LOVED ONES
IN THE MILITARY

Jake Barosh
U.S. Armed Forces

WE'RE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US



OR



- 12/01 Kyle & Haley Orsak
- 12/11 Harry & Marilyn Kight
- 12/11 Philip & Sheila Miller
- 12/22 David & Karen Kight

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

Phone: 979-543-5847

Email: office@firstlutheranec.com



COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, December 17th
6:00 p.m.

Pastor Clyde Grier:
Phone: 979-541-6173

Poinsettias

If you would like to place poinsettias in church, the cost is \$11.75.

Look for the order form in the Narthex.

Flower Chart

The Flower Chart for the new year, 2021 is available in the Narthex. Please choose your special dates and sign up to provide flowers for our worship services.

End of Year Giving

All donations must be in the church office by Dec. 31st in order to receive credit for 2020. All contributions received Jan. 1st or later will be credited to 2021, regardless of the date on the check.

Looking Ahead . . .

The Three Days of Prayer

January 5, 6, and 7, 2021

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

**Thursday, December 24th
6:30 p.m.**

WOMEN OF THE WORD MEETING

Monday, December 7th
6:00 p.m.

WOW Food Drive
Sunday, December 6th

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

--- O Little Town of Bethlehem, LBW #41

Continued from page 1

The holiday most difficult to embrace as a holy-day would be New Year Eve/New Year Day. It could be used to symbolize the new creature we become in Christ. It could remind us that God's mercies are new every morning. It could point to that day when all things will be made new. It is a simple task to proclaim the Gospel with the theme of newness. We often gather with friends and family to feast on foods that tradition tells us are harbingers of good fortune. The greatest promise of prosperity we have is the promise of heaven that one day will become the new heaven and the new earth. Encourage anyone you greet with words of "Happy New Year" or "Auld Lang Syne" to receive joy and peace from the Lord our God.

Praying you find the best of everything in Jesus!
Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!!

Pastor Grier

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BIBLE READING SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2020

Date	Reading	Date	Reading
1	John 13	17	1 Samuel 30
2	John 14	18	1 Samuel 31
3	1 Samuel 16	19	1 Samuel 32
4	1 Samuel 17	20	1 Samuel 33
5	1 Samuel 18	21	1 Samuel 34
6	1 Samuel 19	22	John 15
7	1 Samuel 20	23	John 16
8	1 Samuel 21	24	John 17 and Matthew 1:18-24
9	1 Samuel 22	25	John 18 and Luke 2:1-20
10	1 Samuel 23	26	John 19
11	1 Samuel 24	27	John 20
12	1 Samuel 25	28	John 21
13	1 Samuel 26	29	2 Samuel 1
14	1 Samuel 27	30	2 Samuel 2
15	1 Samuel 28	31	2 Samuel 3
16	1 Samuel 29		



December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion</i>	7 <i>WOW Meeting 6PM FLCEC Manna Meals Team Serves</i>	8 <i>First School Board Meeting 5PM</i>	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM</i>	14	15 <i>Newsletter Items Due</i>	16	17 <i>Church Council Meeting 6PM</i>	18	19
20 <i>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion</i>	21	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion 6:30PM</i>	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	26
27 <i>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM</i>	28	29	30	31		

December Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Calvin Borak

SEXTON: David Kight

USHERS: Lynn Talafuse, Kirk Marek

ALTAR GUILD: David & Karen Kight

ACOLYTES

6th
13th
20th
27th

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.



DECEMBER FLOWER CALENDAR

6th

Pastor & Alys Grier

13th

James & Sheila Herrington

20th

Open

27th

Poinsettias

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: Milton Johnson, David Kight, Kirk Marek, Jimmy Nielsen, Cathy Schoenfield & Lynn Talafuse



OUR NEWSLETTER
CAN BE FOUND ON
OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.FIRSTLUTHERANEC.COM



**Join us for our Christmas Eve Service
on Thursday evening, December 24th!**

**Worship Service with Candlelight and
Holy Communion – 6:30 p.m.**