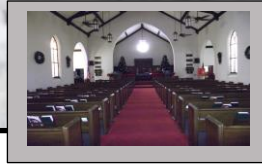


FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

December 2022



Volume 25 No. 12

First Things First...

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.

Matthew 1:18

Indeed, first things first, I must offer two corrections to last month's newsletter article. The correct dates for the Advent services this year are November 30, December 7, 14, and 21. Also, the Christmas Eve Candlelight service will begin at 6:00 pm. Now, with that necessity fulfilled, let us celebrate CHRISTmas.

In 1Corinthians 15:3-4, Paul declares, *"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures..."* Even at this most festive time of the year, we remember that which is first in importance: Jesus loves us so much that He willingly died to ransom us from the wrath of God. We would have no reason to celebrate his birth without his death and resurrection. Without Calvary and the empty Garden Tomb, he might be commemorated as a great philosopher or a gifted teacher. He would be aligned with Confucius, Plato, Socrates, the Buddha, and many others. But he is much more. He is SAVIOR and he is LORD! "He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!"¹ Therefore, Jesus is preeminent, *the firstborn from the dead*,² and that is a just reason to celebrate his birth.

Bearing in mind that Jesus is "the reason for the season," I want to encourage everyone to join every worship event scheduled in December. The unfolding course of events in our world align with the end of this age and portend the return of Christ as Judge and King. The complexity of life, fueled by satanical deceit and manipulation, exerts a powerful distraction from things eternal to things temporal. Even good activities can distract us from what is truly important. We need one another to stand steadfast in true faith. *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*³

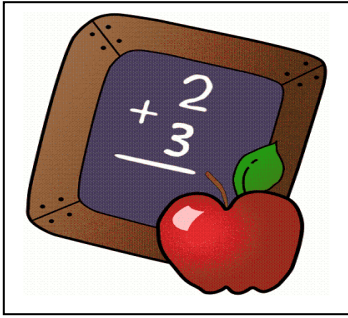
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Jesus loves you and so do I! Pastor Grier

¹from "He Is Lord" c, 1977 by Martin V. Frey

²Colossians 1:18

³Hebrew 10:23-25



First School And Day Care



The First School is gearing up for Christmas! Our annual Preschool Christmas Program will be on Thursday, December 15th, at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. They will sing songs about our Savior's birth, and they are so very excited! Please join us on this special occasion!

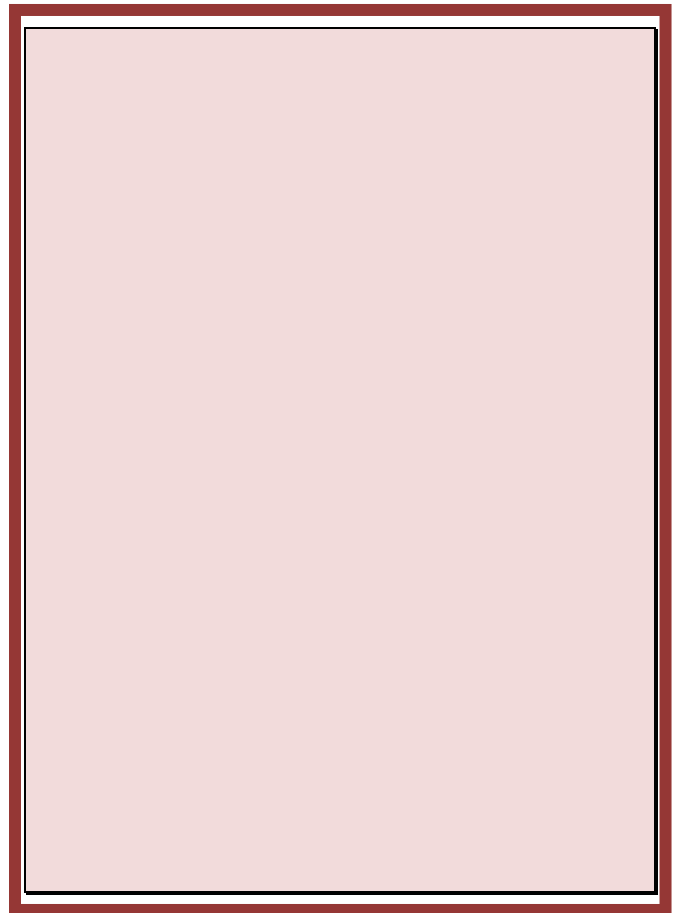
Many Blessings,
Bree Joines
The First School Director

First School Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 13th, 5:00 p.m.

Preschool Christmas Program
Thursday, December 15th, 6:30 p.m.

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FLCEC Manna Meals Team
serves on Monday, December 12th!

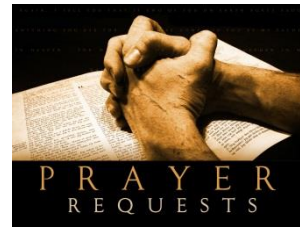


DECEMBER READINGS

- 12/04 Exodus 12:14-20, Psalm 61:1-8, 1 Corinthians 5:9-13, Mark 14:32-42
- 12/11 Exodus 12:21-28, Psalm 62:1-6, 1 Corinthians 6:1-11, Mark 14:43-52
- 12/18 Exodus 12:29-32, Psalm 62:7-12, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, Mark 14:53-65
- 12/25 Christmas Day – no service

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
- Nora Hollingsworth
- Bonnie Jones
- Marilyn Kight
- Kim & Larry Ledwig
- Lloyd Nelson
- Odis Newton
- Jimmy Nielsen
- Ashley Schoeneberg
- Bentley

Friends of FLC

- Linda M
- Virginia Cantu
- Beverly Miller
- Darrel Smith



- 12/05 Axel Koudela
- 12/07 Michael Barosh
- 12/14 Lori Cykala
- 12/23 Becky Sample
- 12/23 Ted Schoenfield
- 12/24 Shirley Chatel
- 12/26 Daniel Wilfert



PRAY FOR
ALL WHO
SERVE IN
THE US MILITARY

WE'RE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US



OR



- 12/01 Kyle & Haley Orsak
- 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 8th
6:00 p.m.

Pastor Clyde Grier:
Phone: 979-541-6173

Poinsettias

Poinsettia orders have been placed early this year due to limited availability. The cost is \$12.00.

If you placed an order you will still complete the order form and attach your payment.

Flower Chart

The Flower Chart for the new year, 2023 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 2022. All contributions received Jan. 1st or later will be credited to 2022, regardless of the date on the check.

Advent Service Themes:

Hoping Through Faith
Hoping Through Peace
Hoping Through Joy
Hoping Through Love

+ + + +

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with Holy Communion

Saturday, December 24th
6:00 p.m.

WOMEN OF THE WORD

WOW Food Drive
Sunday, December 4th

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



Looking Ahead:

The Three Days of Prayer
January 3, 4, and 5, 2023





December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 <i>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion</i>	5	6	7 <i>Advent Midweek Service 12:15PM</i>	8 <i>Church Council Meeting 6PM</i>	9	10
11 <i>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM</i>	12 <i>FLCEC Manna Meals Team serves</i>	13 <i>Board Meeting 5PM Newsletter Items Due</i>	14 <i>Advent Midweek Service 12:15PM</i>	15 <i>First School Christmas Program 6:30PM</i>	16	17
18 <i>Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion</i>	19	20	21 <i>Advent Midweek Service 12:15PM</i>	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion 6:00PM</i>
25 <i>Merry Christmas! No service</i>	26	27	28	29	30	31

December Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Calvin Borak

SEXTON: David Kight

USHERS: James Stewart, Kirk Marek

ALTAR GUILD: David & Karen Kight

READER

4th Diane Stewart
11th Helen Johnson
18th Ty Schoenfield
25th No service

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



DECEMBER FLOWER CALENDAR

4th Open
11th James & Sheila Herrington
18th Kirk & Pat Marek
25th No service

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

December

Join us on **FACEBOOK** or check us out at
www.FIRSTLUTHERANEC.COM

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS: Calvin Borak, Sheila Herrington, Milton Johnson, Will Joines, Kirk Marek,
Cindy Mathews & Jimmy Nielsen



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



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

**Worship Service with Candlelight and
Holy Communion – 6:00 p.m.**