

FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

April 2023



Volume 26 No. 4

First Things First...

⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:9-10

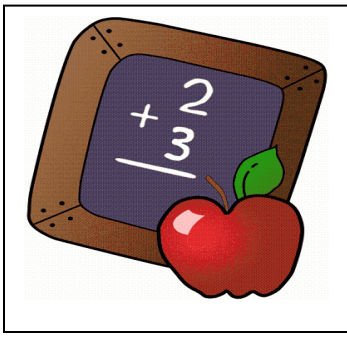
I am certain the usage exists, but I cannot recall (certainly not in everyday conversation) any other occurrence of “propitiation.” So, what is it? Searching for a definition, I most often found: “atonement, especially that of Jesus Christ.” So, what is an “atonement?” Once again to the search, I found its definition as “(in a religious context) reparation or expiation for sin.” Honestly, without my seminary studies I would feel like I needed to have my mouth washed with a bar of soap!

Persistence paid off when I saw a sub-heading “Christian Theology (The Atonement).” Enlightenment came via the words that followed: “the reconciliation of God and humankind through Jesus Christ.” Now, that makes enjoyable and understandable reading. Verse 10 becomes: “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the reconciliation between God and humankind [by his suffering and death] for our sins.” Comprehending the meaning of Jesus’ propitiation produces a distinct effect on our lives. It inspires worship.

There is an old song that says, “Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina in the morning.” I would prefer to say, “nothing could be finer than to be in Jesus in the morning (afternoon and evening too).” I don’t know of any tune fitting the meter of my composition, but the thought is certainly the finest I can have. It leads me to celebrate the events of what we now call Holy Week.

Holy Week is hectic and harried in many households as the final push for celebrating with family and friends becomes paramount. We buy, fill, and hide plastic (or boil and dye the real) Easter eggs, we prepare a meal, we dress in our finest attire, and often in exhaustion we attend church. The schedule of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter morning is challenging for the most faithful church members. However, the events observed during Holy Week are the expressed love of God which he offers through the sacrifice of his uniquely-begotten Son who came to save sinners. Too often, as also happens at Christmas, the secular supplants the spiritual, the stress overcomes the heart, and the urge to stay home supersedes the worship schedule. I invite you to flip the tables (as Jesus did in the Temple) and choose the more important opportunities (as Mary of Bethany did) so if something is taken from the calendar or is left undone or less-elaborately prepared, then let it be the worldly rather than the worship. Jesus lay down his life that you may be reconciled to God. He gives you eternal life; no strings attached! Come, join the celebrations of him who is the propitiation for your sins!

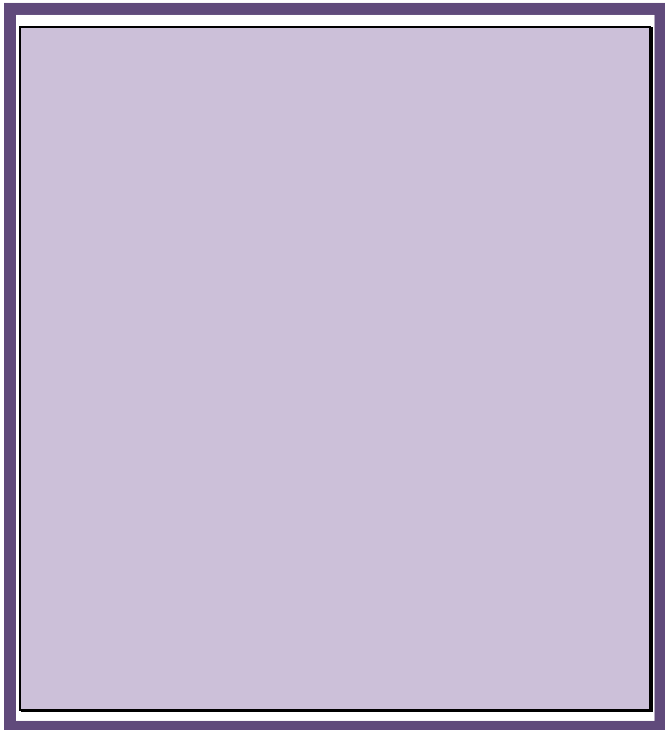
Jesus loves you and so do I! Pastor Grier



First School And Day Care

We would like to invite anyone who would like to come to our Preschool and Pre-K Graduation. The Graduation will be held in our church sanctuary on Thursday, May 18th at 6:30 p.m. We are excited about our program and the children are very excited as well. We hope to see you there!

Many Blessings,
Bree Joines
First School Director



First School Board Meeting -
Thursday, April 13th at 5:00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

On Sunday morning, a class based on the children's sermon is available for children 3 years and up. A nursery is available for infants through 2 years old from the beginning and for the duration of the church service.

APRIL READINGS

- 04/02 Zechariah 9:9-10; Isaiah 53:10-12, Psalm 32:1-5, Philippians 2:5-11, John 12:20-33
- 04/09 Isaiah 53:8-12, Psalm 32:6-11, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 20:1-19
- 04/16 Exodus 16:19-26, Psalm 67:1-3, 1 Corinthians 10:12-17, Luke 1:24-38
- 04/23 Exodus 16:27-36, Psalm 67:4-7, 1 Corinthians 10:18-22, Luke 1:39-45
- 04/30 Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 68:1-6, 1 Corinthians 10:23-31, Luke 1:46-56



- 04/12 Emma Moulden
- 04/12 Ivan Rodriguez
- 04/14 Sheila Herrington
- 04/18 Angelina Tijerina
- 04/20 Calvin Borak
- 04/26 Benjamin Hernandez
- 04/28 Gabriella Tijerina



- Our FLC Family**
- Dorothy Atchetee
 - Harlo & Rhonda Atchetee
 - Charles Bard
 - Ron Chambles
 - Shirley Chatel
 - Bonnie Jones
 - Marilyn Kight
 - Kim & Larry Ledwig
 - Lloyd Nelson
 - Ashley Schoeneberg
 - Bentley

- Friends of FLC**
- Laurie Cooper



- 04/02 Helen Johnson
- 04/10 Doug Mathews
- 04/20 Cindy Mathews
- 04/22 James Stewart
- 04/28 Haley Orsak

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**

WE'RE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US



- 04/19 Calvin & Nora Borak



OR



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

Phone: 979-543-5847
Email: office@firstlutheranec.com



COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, April 20th
6:00 p.m.

Pastor Clyde Grier:
Phone: 979-541-6173

Easter Egg Hunt

WHERE: Helen Kight's House
3294 S St Hwy 71

WHEN: Saturday, April 1st at 2:30 p.m.

Please bring your basket and 12 pre-filled eggs. If you can bring cookies please tell Helen Kight or Billie Jean Bram.

If you do not have children or grandkids you are invited to bring a lawn chair and come for the fellowship!

Easter Floral Garden

We are asking our members to help beautify our worship service on Easter Sunday, April 9, with cut flower arrangements, plants or greenery.

If you would like to place your flowers/plants/greenery in memory or honor of loved ones you may fill out the form that is available in the Narthex and leave it in the church office. All arrangements and plants are requested to be delivered to the church by 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 8. (Ruth S will have Easter selections available if needed.)

First School Board

Thursday, April 13th
5:00 p.m.

Church Council

Thursday, April 20th
6:00 p.m.

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



FLCEC Manna Meals Team

Our Manna Meals Team will **not** have a date to serve in April.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

April 2, Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

April 6, 6:45 p.m.
Seder Meal – 6:15 p.m.

Good Friday Service

April 7, 12:15 p.m.

Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day

April 9, Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
Breakfast – 9:30 a.m.



April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion	3	4	5	6 Seder Meal 6:15 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service 6:45 p.m.	7 Good Friday Service 12:15 p.m.	1/8
9 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM	10	11	12	13 FS Board Meeting 5PM	14	15
16 Sunday School Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion	17	18 Newsletter Items Due	19	20 Church Council Meeting 6PM	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM						

April Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Kirk House
SEXTON: Jimmy Nielsen
USHERS: Kirk House, Will Joines
ALTAR GUILD: Jan Nelson & Kathleen Joines

READER

2nd Helen Johnson
 9th Ty Schoenfield
 16th Kirk Marek
 23rd Ted Schoenfield
 30th Calvin Borak

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



APRIL FLOWER CALENDAR

2nd Palms
 9th Easter Floral Garden
 16th Open
 23rd Open
 30th 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



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 for worship
on Sunday mornings!**

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