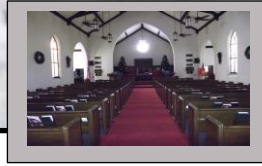


FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

December 2023



Volume 26 No. 12

First Things First...

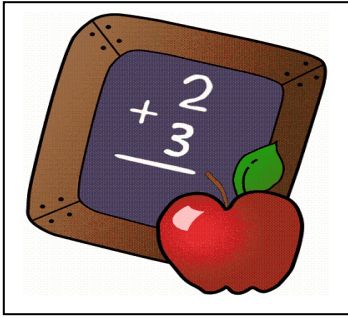
As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace... **1 Peter 4:10**

Christmas time is here again! I remember the anticipation of Christmas mornings, and the excited rush to the tree setting in the living room of my parent's home. Would I find the presents I had "wished" for Santa to bring? Would tearing the giftwrapping paper reveal something surprising, something completely unexpected? Either way, this made for the day to be my favorite day of the year. The lyrics of a classic country song summarize my thoughts and emotions about those Christmas mornings: 'No amount of money can buy from me the memories I have of then...!'

As precious as those memories remain, there is a greater gift which we have received. *Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!* (1 Corinthians 9:15) An overwhelming gratitude arises as we enumerate the blessings which the Father showers upon his children. The Christ-child took on our frail humanity that he could lay down his life as the only acceptable sacrifice for our sins. The Holy Spirit opened our minds and hearts to receive the Gospel for our forgiveness. He maintains our faith that we stand in God's grace, trusting His Word, redeemed to salvation, and having the hope of everlasting life. Our God protects, guides, equips, encourages, teaches, inspires...ad infinitum! We have these blessings and gifts to share with each other.

God gives to each one (Ephesians 4:8), as He desires, that we should serve one another. Ephesians 2:10 reminds us: *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.* Words and deeds of kindness and strengthening and encouragement should readily and continually hallmark our lives (1 Thessalonians 5:15). May this Christmas witness a renewed spirit of serving each other as Our Lord exemplified and as He calls us to do.

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



First School And Day Care

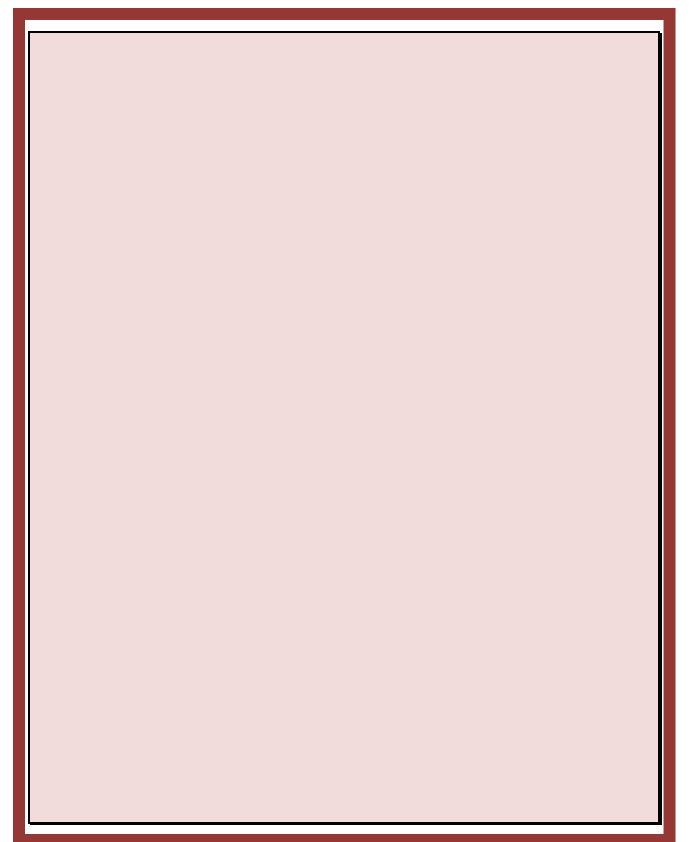


The First School is gearing up for our annual Christmas program! We are excited to announce we will be presenting a program called "Christmas in The Kitchen." Our preschool Christmas program will tell the story of the true meaning of Christmas in a fun way! Please join us on Thursday, December 14th, at 6:30 p.m. in our church sanctuary. We hope to see you there!

Many Blessings,
Bree Joines
The First School Director

First School Board Meeting
Thursday, December 14th, 5:00 p.m.

Preschool Christmas Program
Thursday, December 14th, 6:30 p.m.



DECEMBER READINGS

12/03

12/10 Exodus 26:26-37, Psalm 73:1-5, 2 Corinthians 3:7-11, Luke 7:31-35

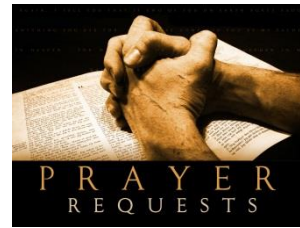
12/17 Exodus 27:1-8, Psalm 73:6-10, 2 Corinthians 3:12-18, Luke 7:36-50

12/24 Christmas Eve

12/31 Exodus 27:9-21, Psalm 73:11-15, 2 Corinthians 4:1-6, Luke 8:1-8

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

- Cecil Anderson
- Dorothy Atchetee
- Harlo & Rhonda Atchetee
- Ron Chambles
- Alys Grier
- Bonnie Jones
- Marilyn Kight
- Kim & Larry Ledwig
- Lloyd Nelson
- Jimmy Nielsen
- Ashley Schoeneberg
- Bentley

Friends of FLC

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



- 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
Monday, December 18th
6:00 p.m.

Pastor Clyde Grier:
Phone: 979-541-6173

Poinsettias

If you would like to place poinsettias in church, the cost is \$13.00.

Look for the order form in the Narthex.

Flower Chart

The Flower Chart for the new year, 2024 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 2023. All contributions received Jan. 1st or later will be credited to 2024, regardless of the date on the check.

Advent Service Themes:

**Before Time Began
At the Right Time
In Time to Come
From Before Time to Its End**

+ + + +

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with Holy Communion**

**Sunday, December 24th
6:00 p.m.**

First School Board

Thursday, December 14th
5:00 p.m.

Church Council

Monday, December 18th
6:00 p.m.

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



Looking Ahead:

The Three Days of Prayer
January 2, 3, and 4, 2024

**"When the fullness of time had
come, God sent his Son."
Galatians 4:4**





December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion	4	5	6 Advent Midweek Service 12:15PM	7	1/8	2/9
10 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM	11	12 Newsletter Items Due	13 Advent Midweek Service 12:15PM	14 First School Christmas Program 6:30PM	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion	18 Church Council Meeting 6PM	19	20 Advent Midweek Service 12:15PM	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion 6:00PM	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29	30
31 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM						

December Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Calvin Borak

SEXTON: David Kight

USHERS: James Stewart, Kirk Marek

ALTAR GUILD: David & Karen Kight

READER

3rd Calvin Borak
10th Cathy Schoenfield
17th Diane Stewart
24th
31st Helen Johnson

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



DECEMBER FLOWER CALENDAR

3rd Open
10th Open
17th Kirk & Pat Marek
24th Poinsettias
31st Poinsettias

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

304 Oscar
El Campo, TX 77437
979-543-5847

Email: office@firstlutheranec.com

ESTABLISHED FEB 1893

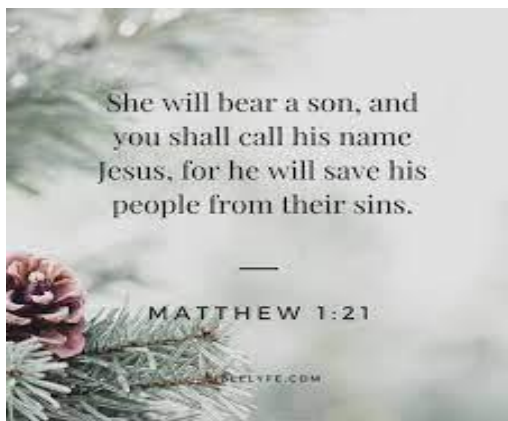
*Worshipping Christ and Sharing
the Word for over a century.*

Clyde Grier, Pastor
Helen Marie Kight, Organist
Christine Richter, Office Manager
Bree Joines, Director of First School

December

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 our Christmas Eve Service
on Sunday evening, December 24th!**

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