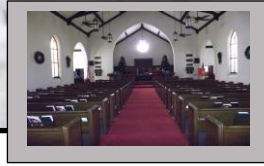


FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

May 2019



Volume 22 No. 5

First Things First...

FORGOTTEN DAYS

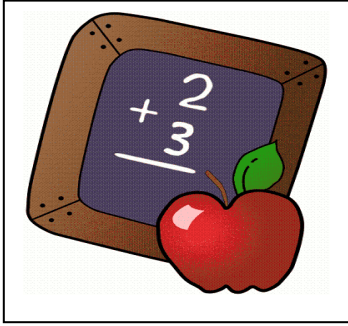
And after (Jesus) had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. Acts 1:9

Christmas, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Resurrection, Pentecost: these seven days garner a great deal of attention in the church calendar. Likewise, New Year Day, Valentine Day, St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Halloween, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and New Year's Eve (among others) offer the opportunity for celebrations of secular origin.

May 31, 2019 will be what I like to call a "forgotten" day of the church's observation of important events. It is the date this year when we mark the Ascension of Christ. We profess in our creeds that "He ascended into heaven." If the event was considered significant in the composition and compilation of these doctrinal statements, why is it largely ignored? For one thing, it always occurs on a Thursday. Scripture reveals that the ascension occurred forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3). It is difficult to gather even the most faithful believers on something other than a Sunday. Even Maundy Thursday and Good Friday have become more sparsely attended in recent years...so much so that many churches no longer hold worship services on these days. As a second reason for its "forgotten" status, businesses have not commercialized this holiday. Most secular and the most popular Christian holidays determinately encourage the celebrants to spend their money. The entertainment industry benefits greatly through the sale of advertising the holidays which are profitable to business, therefore many remember to "celebrate" those events.

Where does the Ascension fit in our theology? It is the current "experience" of the church. Christ Jesus has ascended to and sits at the right hand of God until the Day when He will return. As He ascended, His disciples "were gazing intently into the sky" (Acts 1:10). Two angels spoke to those gathered believers the promise that one day "He will come in just the same way" (Acts 1:11). With that news in mind, the disciples returned to Jerusalem and "with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer" (Acts 1:14). May this final statement be our moniker until the Day of the Lord! May we be a praying assembly, gathering together to encourage one another as we see that Day approaching!

In Christ,
Rev. Clyde Grier
Interim pastor



First School And Day Care

First School currently has 81 children. We have some new and exciting changes at First School! First, our infant room is fully operating with 6 infants in the church parsonage. Things are going so well over there and the parents and babies love the peaceful and homelike environment.

Also, I would like to announce that we have a new Assistant Director! The school board reviewed potential candidates to fill our vacant position and chose Misty Ledwig. She has been a teacher at First School for a year now and is very hardworking and trustworthy. Misty is also a proud member here at First Lutheran and wants the best for our church ministry. She is approaching this new position with much needed enthusiasm and positivity! We are so excited to have her! Please pray for her during this time of transition.

Many Blessings,
Bree Joines
First School Director

**First School Board Meeting –
Tuesday, May 14th – 5:30 p.m.**

MAY READINGS

05/05 Psalm 30; Acts 9:1-6(7-20), Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

05/12 Psalm 23; Acts 9:36-43, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

05/19 Psalm 148; Acts 11:1-18, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

05/26 Psalm 67; Acts 16:9-15, Revelation 21:10,22-22:5, John 14:23-29



05/01 Kim Kainer
 05/05 Robert Hollingsworth
 05/20 Emery Langston
 05/23 Dagny Thane
 05/25 Shane Langston
 05/26 Kathleen Joines
 05/30 Evon Atchete



Our FLC Family

Dorothy Atchete
 Evon & Linda Atchete
 Charles Bard
 Ron Chambles
 Nora Hollingsworth
 Jewel Deen House
 Harry & Marilyn Kight
 Kim & Larry Ledwig
 John Nelson
 Norma Newton

Friends of FLC

Vanessa
 Eugene Bard
 Ernest & Rozelle Giesie
 Peggy Glaze
 Verna Roy
 Kim Walker
 Monica Harris
 Riley Sless

S J Swanson
 Annalee Blaha
 Shawn
 Daniel Wittig
 Kim S
 Luke Streiferd
 Lloyd & Diane Nelson
 Veronica Richards



05/02 Kirk House
 05/11 Ed Campbell
 05/13 Sheila Herrington
 05/14 Shane Langston
 05/14 Sarah Langston
 05/24 Jewel-Deen House

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 OUR LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Jake Barosh
 U.S. Armed Forces



WE'RE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US



OR



05/25 Daniel & Claudia Wilfert

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

Phone: 979-543-5847

Email: office@firstlutheranec.com



COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, May 16th
 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Clyde Grier:

Phone: 979-541-6173



**SUNDAY, May 19th
Reunion Sunday**

Kist By Grace will host our service

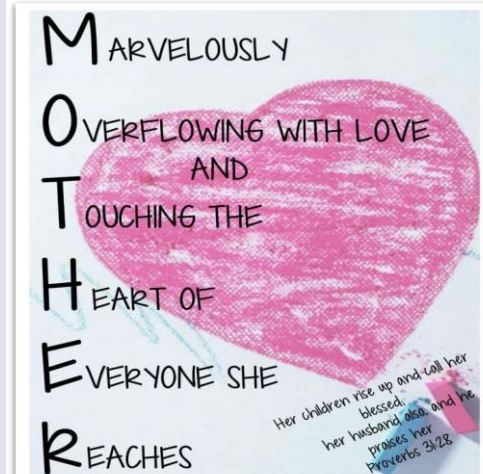
Please invite your family and friends to join us for this special service and for a time of visiting and reminiscing!

*Thank
you*

*Thank you to Helen Kight for hosting the
Easter Egg hunt at her home!*

Flower Chart

The Flower Chart still has available dates for the second half of the year! Please sign up for the Sundays when you would like to provide flowers for our service.



WOMEN OF THE WORD MEETING

Monday, May 13th
6:00 p.m.

WOW Food Drive
Sunday, May 5th

A = Always
S = Say
A = A
P = Prayer



A Prayer for the Day of Pentecost

O Holy Spirit, You once descended on Your apostles and kept our Savior's promise of your coming. You enabled Your Word of Grace and truth to be proclaimed in the earliest days of Your church. Descend upon and among Your church in our day so that the saving name of Jesus may continue to be proclaimed and that many more may come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. In Jesus' name. Amen.

--- Portals of Prayer (April-June, 2016) page 107

MEMORIAL DAY



May 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 National Day of Prayer	3	4
5 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service w/Communion 10:45 AM WOW Food Drive	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM	13 WOW Meeting 6PM	14 First School Board Meeting 5:30PM Newsletter Items Due	15	16 Church Council Meeting 6:00PM	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service w/Communion 10:45 AM Reunion Sunday	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM	27	28	29	30	31	

May Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Calvin Borak

SEXTON: Daniel Wilfert

USHERS: Calvin Borak, Daniel Wilfert

ALTAR GUILD: Marilyn Kight, Jan Nelson
Kathleen Joines

ACOLYTES

READER

5 th	Ty Schoenfield
12 th	Kirk Marek
19 th	Ted Schoenfield
26 th	Sheila Herrington

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



MAY FLOWER CALENDAR

5 th	Open
12 th	Calvin & Nora Borak
19 th	Open
26 th	Jimmy & Kathy Joines

WHY DO WE...?

... WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

If the Ten Commandments includes the precept to “remember the Sabbath day,” then why do we worship on Sundays?

*The Creation narrative relates that God completed the “work” of creation in six days, and on the seventh day, He “rested.” Thus, those who worshipped the True God observed His command and kept the seventh day as a sabbath, a day of rest. However, with the resurrection of Christ on the first day of the week, everything changed. Sunday became the Lord’s Day, a day of celebration and remembrance of the work of salvation which Jesus accomplished for us. We assemble (or at least we **SHOULD** assemble) for worship and encouragement on the first day of the week for four reasons:*

- 1) Jesus appeared to His disciples as the risen Savior on Sunday (John 20:1);*
- 2) The Holy Spirit descended on the disciples of Jesus on a Sunday [the fiftieth day after Passover] (Acts 2:1);*
- 3) As on the first day of creation when God created light and separated it from darkness, so we worship on Sunday (the first day of the week) to celebrate the light of the Gospel which delivers and separates from the darkness of sin (John 1:1-18, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6);*
- 4) The early church gathered on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:2).*

The joy of the Resurrection Worship which we enjoyed on April 21st should and can be the full experience of our gathering together. All that is required for a repeat of our celebration is for you to come. Looking forward to seeing you again soon!



**LCMC TEXAS DISTRICT
ANNUAL GATHERING
August 2-3, 2019**

**Faith Lutheran Church,
Seguin, TX**

**Register Online:
2019LCMCTexas.eventbrite.com**

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: Sheila Herrington, Milton Johnson, David Kight, Sheila Miller, Jimmy Nielsen, Cathy Schoenfield, & Lynn Talafuse.



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



Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.
Reunion Sunday – May 19th