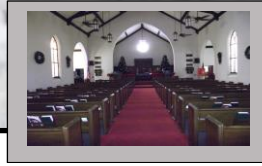


FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

November 2020



Volume 23 No. 11

First Things First...

This I Believe

“...in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect.”
1 Peter 3:15

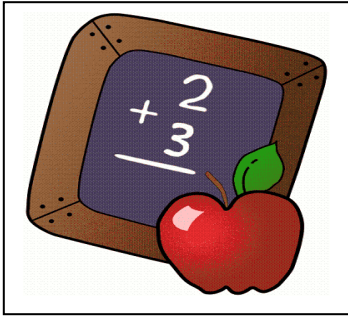
Belief exerts a powerful influence on every aspect of life. As Peter says above, there is a hope in everyone who believes in Christ the Lord. Each one of us should be ready, at any time, to make a defense (tell the reason) for that hope. In the series of statements which began in the February edition of *First Fruits*, I plan to share a summary of what I believe so that you may know me more fully and so you may see the reason for the hope that is in me. I continue the series with this article stating my belief regarding the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

It is fitting and appropriate to begin this article with a reminder that on November 26 we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. It is fitting and appropriate because one of the names of the Sacrament we examine this month is The Thanksgiving. In Greek that word is “eucharisto” which transliterates to “eucharist,” one of the names given the Supper. Other names include: The Lord’s Supper, The Lord’s Table, The Thanksgiving, The Eucharist: all refer to the same meal which is also called Communion or Holy Communion.

I believe the Scriptures plainly teach (and therefore I believe) that in Holy Communion the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Christ exists in the Sacrament. In the same manner as when Jesus spoke to His disciples in the upper room on the night of His betrayal, when He said to them, “...this is My body, ...this is My blood,” His body and blood are received in the same way: in, with and under the bread and the wine or grape juice (literally *the fruit of the vine*). As presented in the articles on Baptism, Holy Communion likewise communicates forgiveness, delivers from death and the devil and gives the believing recipient everlasting life. This is clearly portrayed through Christ’s own words, saying that as His body and blood are received in the Sacrament, it is “for the forgiveness of sins”. Participation in this Sacrament occurs regularly and repeatedly because Scripture instructs us to “do this, whenever you drink it.” Preparation to receive this Sacrament is commanded by the Word in 1 Corinthians 11:23-32. The recipient is exhorted to “examine” oneself to “recognize the body of the Lord.” I believe this means to recognize one’s need for Christ’s forgiving sacrifice and to believe Christ’s words saying His body and blood are given for the forgiveness of sins.

The communicant need not have concern regarding the “worthiness” or “unworthiness” of any other person coming to the altar in order to partake of the Sacrament. One should concentrate on the beneficial gift of forgiveness which Christ earned and the impartation of that gift to one’s

(continued on page 5)



First School And Day Care

First School is currently at 79 children. We are doing great and ready for the cooler weather! Also, we are excited about our annual Thanksgiving feast. This year we will celebrate Thanksgiving with our children and teachers. Our school has so much to be thankful for! We are thankful that God is bringing us through all of this Covid stress and and has provided everything we need. God's provision has been abundant! Thank you for your continued thoughts and prayers!

Many Blessings!

Bree Joines

First School Director

**First School Board Meeting –
Tuesday, November 3rd, 5:30 p.m.**

NOVEMBER READINGS

11/01 Psalm 24:1-6; Genesis 26:1-17, Acts 16:16-24, Matthew 13:10-17
11/08 Psalm 24:7-10; Genesis 26:18-22, Acts 16:25-34, Matthew 13:24-30,36-43
11/15 Psalm 25:1-5; Genesis 26:23-35, Acts 16:35-40, Matthew 13:31-35,44-52
11/22 Psalm 25:6-10; Genesis 27:1-14, Acts 17:1-9, Matthew 13:53-58
11/29 Psalm 25:11-18; Genesis 27:15-29, Acts 17:10-15, Matthew 14:1-12



11/02 Ted Schoenfield
 11/15 Bram Koudela
 11/19 Joshua Barosh
 11/25 Franklin Ahlschlager, Jr.
 11/29 Nerissa House



11/01 Robert Hollingsworth
 11/03 Kirbie Woods
 11/16 Nikolas Woodson
 11/16 Ryan Woodson
 11/20 Sarah Barosh
 11/20 Teagan Stewart-Gallegos
 11/23 Sharon Nielsen
 11/24 Linda Korenek
 11/27 Marilyn Kight
 11/29 Lynette Hernandez



11/07 Milton & Loretta Johnson



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 Speckels
 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

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



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

Phone: 979-543-5847

Email: office@firstlutheranec.com



COUNCIL MEETING
 Thursday, November 19th
 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Clyde Grier:
 Phone: 979-541-6173

Manna Meals

Our FLCEC Manna Meals Team will **not** be serving in November. Our next turn to serve will be on Monday, December 7th. Please let Cathy Schoenfield know if you will be able to help. The team welcomes anyone who would like to come and help with this outreach effort!

Where all are family and all are fed

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Fall Back!

On Sunday, November 1st, daylight saving time ends! Remember to "fall back" – turn your clocks back one hour so you will be on time for our morning service.

We Give Thee Thanks

For all thy goodness Lord,
we give thee thanks,
Thanks for the food we eat, and for the
friends we meet:
For each new day we greet, we give
thee thanks.

(taken from We Give Thee Thanks
hymn 237, The Other Song Book)

WOMEN OF THE WORD MEETING

Monday, November 2nd
6:00 p.m.

WOW Food Drive
Sunday, November 1st

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 26th
All are welcome!

Plans are being made to continue this annual event. Because of the pandemic, precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of the volunteers and the community.

Donations are needed for this free city wide Thanksgiving Dinner. Monetary donations are welcomed to help defray the cost of this meal. An account has been set up at First State Bank in El Campo.



(continued from page 1)

believing heart. What should one do if he or she does not feel worthy to receive the Sacrament because of unconfessed sin or an unresolved offense in a relationship? In that case, I would remind that person that it is for those very sins (and for every sin) that Christ died. He instituted the Meal for the assurance that sins are forgiven. If one's conscience is stricken and fearful because of some sin and they have such an awareness of guilt so they self-prevent partaking in the Sacrament, that person should be dealt a hearty dose of the Gospel for its absolution. A Christian should feel comfortable approaching the congregation's pastor or another mature member for counsel and verbal assurance of God's willingness to forgive and restore. The Lord is anxious to forgive and offers the Eucharist that every sinner may receive the assurance that his or her sins are forgiven. What if one does not "feel" the need for Communion? How often should one partake of the Supper? I believe both of these questions find an answer in Martin Luther's response to the first question. In essence he said, "Put your hand inside your shirt and touch your chest. If you find mortal flesh with that touch, then you have need of the Sacrament." To neglect the Lord's Table is to forego the generous blessing the Lord offers in it. One's sense of the Lord's Presence and His offered forgiveness should prompt attendance at His Table as often as possible.

What of the case where one disciple of Christ sees someone partaking of the Table who is living a life that is openly sinful or uncharacteristic of a believer? Then, follow the direction of Galatians 6:1, *"Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."* Also, in Matthew 16:18, we read: *If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, **between you and him alone*** (emphasis mine). *If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge maybe established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.* Always, we should strive for the reconciliation of ourselves and our brothers and sisters in Christ that we may come to the Holy Supper rejoicing in the Communion with Jesus and each other.

I believe this is most certainly true. Pastor Grier

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BIBLE READING SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2020

Date	Reading	Date	Reading	Date	Reading
1	Ruth 2	11	1 Samuel 1	21	1 Samuel 11
2	Ruth 3	12	1 Samuel 2	22	1 Samuel 12
3	Ruth 4	13	1 Samuel 3	23	1 Samuel 13
4	John 1	14	1 Samuel 4	24	1 Samuel 14
5	John 2	15	1 Samuel 5	25	1 Samuel 15
6	John 3	16	1 Samuel 6	26	John 8
7	John 4	17	1 Samuel 7	27	John 9
8	John 5	18	1 Samuel 8	28	John 10
9	John 6	19	1 Samuel 9	29	John 11
10	John 7	20	1 Samuel 10	30	John 12

November 2020



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

November Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Lynn Talafuse
SEXTON: Gaynard Wigginton
USHERS: Calvin Borak, Daniel Wilfert
ALTAR GUILD: Sheila Herrington, Becky Sample

ACOLYTES

1st
8th
15th
22nd
29th

READER

Cathy Schoenfield
 Diane Stewart
 Helen Johnson
 Lynn Talafuse
 Ty Schoenfield

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



NOVEMBER FLOWER CALENDAR

1st Jimmy & Kathleen Joines
8th Jimmy & Sharon Nielsen
15th Open
22nd Open
29th Kirk & Pat Marek

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 on Sunday mornings!

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.