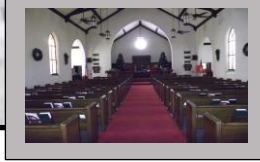


# FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

January 2025



Volume 28 No. 1

## First Things First...

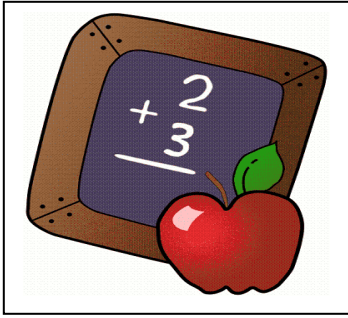
***Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15***

Finishing the Christmas season, one frequently finds a shortage of energy, a depleted checking account, and all too often, a big mess to clean up. Yet, it is all worth it. Somehow, the absolute best in us comes to the forefront during the last two weeks of each year. We give and we get, and that brings us joy. As we experience God's love, despite all the demanding work, all the errands and responsibilities to fulfill, and some unnecessary rudeness on the part of "others," smiles adorn our faces.

We have an impressive example Who gives us every reason to smile. God's inexpressible (amazing, indescribable, fabulous, etcetera and ad infinitum) gift of Christmas! God loved us so much that He gave Jesus to be one of us and fulfill the requirements of the Law and offer himself as a sacrifice for all our sins. At the right time, in the right place, and for the right purpose Jesus temporarily laid aside part of His divine power to become the Savior of mankind. *While we were still sinners, while we were enemies (of God), while we were weak Christ died for us and reconciled us to God* (Romans 5:6,8,10). That truth should lift us to praise and thank God each day.

As we begin the year of our Lord 2025, let us resolve to respond to the love of God poured out for us through Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection, and the promise of His coming again! *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He Who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?... For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height or depth, or anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord* (Romans 8:31-32,38-39).

May the blessings of Almighty God give you joy every day during the coming year! Jesus loves you and so do I! *Pastor Grier*



# First School And Day Care

The First School is looking forward to a great new year for 2025. We had some trials, and we had a lot of construction! Between improvements and repairs our hands have been full. We thank God for bringing us through it all. Please join us and ask God for provision, guidance, and protection for our school for the new year! The Best Is Yet To Come! To God Be The Glory!

Thank You,  
Bree Joines  
First School Director

**First School Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.**

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Please mark your calendar for Sunday,  
January 26, 2025.

### OUR FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR NOVEMBER

Monthly Offering needed to meet Budget	\$8,752
Sunday Offering received	4,363
Expenses paid	- 12,744
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>- 8,381</b>
General Fund balance 11/1/24	<b>\$ 20,899</b>
General Fund balance 11/30/24	<b>\$ 14,218</b>

### **FIRST SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT** **NOVEMBER**

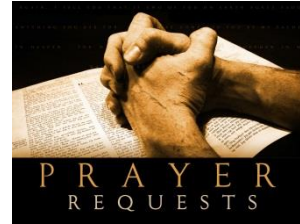
Checking Account Balance 11/1/24	\$47,936.02
Fee Income	31,036.20
NCI	83,744.76
Food Program	3,078.80
FLC payroll reimbursement	5,640.94
FLC payroll tax reimbursement	176.03
Reimbursement	2,914.61
Miscellaneous Income	<u>21,104.37</u>
Total Income (November)	\$147,695.71
Expenses	
Expenses - Payroll	113,175.69
Expenses – Operating	27,281.58
Payroll Tax	8,401.13
Contribution to church	<u>589.94</u>
Total Expenses (November)	\$149,448.34
Checking Account Balance 11/30/24	\$46,183.39

## JANUARY READINGS

- 01/05 Exodus 39:32-43, Psalm 81:13-16, Ephesians 2:1-10. Luke 16:14-18
- 01/12 Exodus 40:1-11, Psalm 82:1-4, Ephesians 2:11-18, Luke 16:19-31
- 01/19 Exodus 40:12-21, Psalm 82:5-8 Ephesians 2:19-22 Luke 17:1-10
- 01/26 Exodus 40:22-33, Psalm 83:1-4, Ephesians 3:1-7, Luke 17:11-19

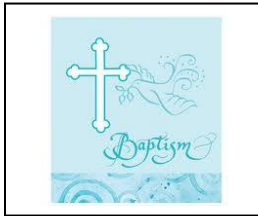


- 01/02 Becky Sample
- 01/03 Sarah Langston
- 01/09 Helen Johnson
- 01/09 Kirk Marek
- 01/10 Landon Thane
- 01/15 Everly Orsak
- 01/16 Sarah Thane
- 01/18 Sheila Miller
- 01/21 Dorothy Atchetee
- 01/27 Cathy Schoenfield
- 01/30 Rachel Hernandez
- 01/30 Cindy Mathews



- Our FLC Family**
- Cecil Anderson
  - Dorothy Atchetee
  - Harlo & Rhonda Achtetee
  - Cora Lee Bishop
  - Pastor & Alys Grier
  - James & Sheila Herrington
  - Marilyn Kight
  - Kim & Larry Ledwig
  - Pat Marek
  - Lloyd Nelson
  - Jimmy Nielsen
  - Ashley Schoeneberg
  - Bentley

**Friends of FLC**



*List will be cleared on the 1<sup>st</sup> in January, April, July and October. Please help us stay current; call the office with changes or additions.*

- 01/03 Karen Kight
- 01/04 Ashlyn Hanna
- 01/04 Angelina Tijerina
- 01/04 Gabriella Tijerina
- 01/18 Jake Herrington
- 01/25 Claudia Wilfert



**PRAY FOR  
ALL WHO  
SERVE IN  
THE US MILITARY**

**WE'RE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US**



- 01/25 James & Diane Stewart
- 01/26 Ted & Cathy Schoenfield



OR



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

Phone: 979-543-5847  
Email: [office@firstlutheranec.com](mailto:office@firstlutheranec.com)



**COUNCIL MEETING**  
Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

**Pastor Clyde Grier**  
Phone: 979-541-6173

## FLCEC Manna Meals Team

Thank you to our members who have been faithful in providing food for meals and also serving at Manna Meals on behalf of our First Lutheran Team! Our next date to serve will be Thursday, January 16, 2025.

+ + + + + + + +

### *Church Office Closed*

The church office will be closed the week of December 23-27.

### **Flower Chart**

The new Flower Chart (pages) for 2025 is available for you to choose your special dates. Please sign up for the Sundays when you would like to provide flowers for our service!

### **End of Year Giving**

**All donations must be in the church office by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> in order to receive credit for 2024. All contributions received Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> or later will be credited to 2025, regardless of the date on the check.**

## Thank You!

*We appreciate all who have volunteered and helped in many ways this year - our Manna Meals Team, those who have been faithful in their monthly duties, Mr. Borak for the care of the Cemetery, the Church Council, and First School Board and Bree Joines for the guidance of First School!*

*As 2024 comes to an end and a new year begins we want to say "thank you" to Helen Kight for her faithfulness as organist for all our worship services throughout this last year (and the over 50 years she has played for First Lutheran)!*

*We look forward to the new year with hope as we await what it will bring!*

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



## First School Board

Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m.

## Church Council

Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

### **Day Three: January 9**

#### **For our International Partners.**

*"Thank You, Lord, that You have bound us together with these sister churches and leaders and partner networks. We pray that You will show us how we can come alongside them, encourage them, and serve with them. Lord, grant our brothers and sisters Your favor in their cities, communities, and countries. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen."*

## LCMC Three Days of Prayer

January 7-9, 2025

### **Day One: January 7**

#### **For Our Congregations and Leaders.**

*"Lord, we pray that You bless our congregations and leaders with Your favor and with Your provision and power to carry out the ministry and mission You have in store for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."*

### **Day Two: January 8**

#### **For those who Don't Yet know Jesus as Savior and Lord, and For the Prodigals.**

*"Lord, give us Your heart for those who don't yet know you as Savior and Lord, and for the prodigals. Create in us a boldness to love them and to share our God-stories with them as opportunities arise. Open our eyes to be aware of everyday encounters in which we can minister your love and Your power to those in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."*



# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion</i>	6	7 - - Three - -	8 - - Days of - - <i>Annual Reports due</i>	9 - - Prayer - -	10	11 <i>First School Board Meeting 5PM</i>
12 <i>Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM</i>	13	14 <i>Newsletter Items Due</i>	15	16	17	18
19 <i>Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion</i>	20 <i>Church Council Meeting 6PM</i>	21	22	23 <i>FLCEC Manna Meals Team serves</i>	24	25
26 <i>Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM Annual Congregational Meeting</i>	27	28	29	30	31	

## January Responsibilities

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Pat Marek  
**SEXTON:** Calvin Borak  
**USHERS:** Kirk Marek, Alvin Yackel  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Billie Jean Bram, Cori Koudela  
 Kim Ledwig

### READER

5<sup>th</sup> Kirk Marek  
 12<sup>th</sup> Emma Moulden  
 19<sup>th</sup> Ted Schoenfield  
 26<sup>th</sup> Calvin Borak

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



## JANUARY FLOWER CALENDAR

5<sup>th</sup> Kirk & Pat Marek  
 12<sup>th</sup> Open  
 19<sup>th</sup> Open  
 26<sup>th</sup> Open

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

Email: [office@firstlutheranec.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://WWW.FIRSTLUTHERANEC.COM)



**Join us for our Annual Meeting  
on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>!**

**Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.**