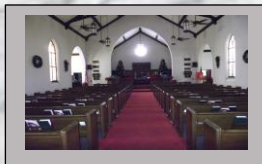


# FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

April 2024



Volume 27 No. 4

## *First Things First*

*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him Who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:1-3*

One-third of new small businesses fail within the first two years of existence and about one-half do not make the fifth anniversary of being formed. Considering those facts, for First Lutheran Church to be celebrating 131 years of ministry to El Campo and the surrounding area reveals the grace of God extended toward this congregation. To paraphrase a Christian song, *My Tribute*: “How can we say thanks for all the things He has done for us, things so underserved that prove His love for us? To God be the glory!” On at least one occasion in the past an “expert” consultant recommended that the doors be closed, but the church remains!

The question before us is: what does the future hold for us? We must “...*contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints*” (Jude 3). The enemy of the faith is “*prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour*” (1 Peter 5:8). The danger of losing the truth is compounded by the Holy Spirit’s warning: “*There were false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master Who bought them...*” (2 Peter 2:1). In the face of this onslaught, we must “*put on the full armor of God*” (see Ephesians 6:10-20) and “*Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong*” (1 Corinthians 16:13) and recall that the Scriptures are written “*to encourage you and to testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it*” (1 Peter 5:12). It is the same as it has always been we must preserve and extend the Biblical and historical faith so that others may experience and proclaim with us: “*You will know the truth and the truth will set you free*” (John 8:32).

We can approach such a bold agenda in one of two ways. We can bemoan the facts that we are “old” and “tired” and “weak” and “too few.” Or we can call on the Lord and proclaim, “With God all things are possible!” Old? Moses was 80 when the Lord appeared in the burning bush and called him to lead Israel out of Egypt...and Moses led the chosen people for another 40 years! Tired? Moses grew weary when holding up his hands in prayer while Israel fought the Amalekites, so Aaron and Hur stood beside him, holding his hands aloft, leading to an Israeli victory. Weak? How many times has Israel faced a superior enemy and emerged victorious because “the Lord fought for

Israel” (Joshua 10:14, et al)? Too few? Gideon had an army of 32,000, which God reduced to 300. Attacking an army that “lay along the valley like locusts in abundance,” Gideon and Israel overcame and destroyed the combined forces of Midian, Amalek, and all the people of the East (Judges 7). We, like them and those named in Hebrews 11, need to have faith in the Lord our GOD.

That faith trusts God's promises given through the empty cross and the empty tomb for the forgiveness of our sins and the hope of eternal life. We enjoy the privilege of sharing that message that is good news whenever and to whomever we can. In all we say and do and are, we exclaim: TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

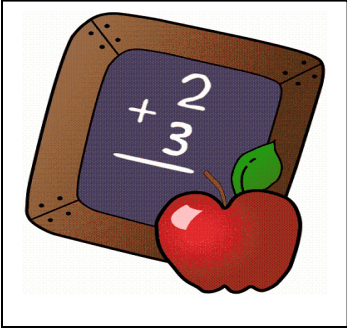
Remember: Jesus loves you and so do I!

Pastor Grier

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## BIBLE READING SCHEDULE APRIL 2024

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



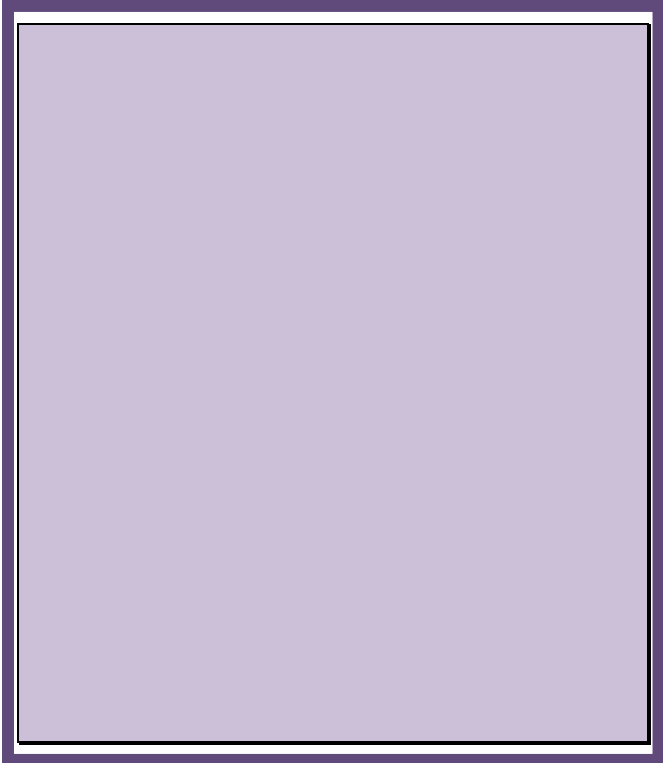
# First School And Day Care

The First School is getting ready for our end of the year program for our Preschool and Pre-K classrooms. Our graduation will be held in our church sanctuary on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30 p.m. We would love for you to join us for our program! We hope to see you there!

Many Blessings,  
Bree Joines  
First School Director

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**First School Board Meeting -  
Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.**



## APRIL READINGS

- 04/07 Exodus 29:38-46; Psalm 75:1-5, 2 Corinthians 7:10-16, Luke 9:28-36
- 04/14 Exodus 30:1-10, Psalm 75:6-10, 2 Corinthians 8:1-8, Luke 9:37-43a
- 04/21 Exodus 30:11-16, Psalm 76:1-6, 2 Corinthians 8:9-15, Luke 9:43b-48
- 04/28 Exodus 30:17-21, Psalm 76:7-12, 2 Corinthians 8:16-24, Luke 9:49-56



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

- Friends of FLC**
- Cecelia D



- 04/02 Helen Johnson
- 04/05 Marolyn McMillan
- 04/10 Doug Mathews
- 04/20 Cindy Mathews
- 04/22 James Stewart
- 04/28 Haley Orsak

*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.*



**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](mailto:office@firstlutheranec.com)



**COUNCIL MEETING**  
Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

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

## Thank You

*The family of Milton Johnson would like to thank all of you for your prayers, love and comfort to us during this time.*

*Your generous donation of desserts and help in the kitchen after the funeral was so greatly appreciated.*

*Love,  
Loretta and family*

## A Prayer for the Easter Season

Almighty God, we have celebrated with joy the festival of our Lord's resurrection! Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

--- taken from LBW page 21

### First School Board

Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m.

### Church Council

Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



## FLCEC Manna Meals Team

Our Manna Meals Team will serve on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please let Cathy Schoenfield know if you will be able to help.



# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion	8	9	10	11 FS Board Meeting 5PM	12	13
14 Worship Service 10:45 AM	15 Church Council Meeting 6PM	16 Newsletter Items Due	17	18	19	20
21 Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion	22 FLCEC Team serves @ Manna Meals	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship Service 10:45 AM	29	30				

## April Responsibilities

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

### READER

7<sup>th</sup> Helen Johnson  
 14<sup>th</sup> Ty Schoenfield  
 21<sup>st</sup> Kirk Marek  
 28<sup>th</sup> Emma Moulden

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



## APRIL FLOWER CALENDAR

7<sup>th</sup> Jimmy & Kathleen Joines  
 14<sup>th</sup> Open  
 21<sup>st</sup> Open  
 28<sup>th</sup> Open

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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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](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 worship  
on Sunday mornings!**

**Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.**