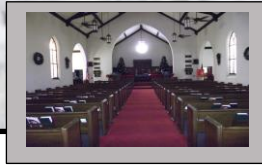


# FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

June 2025



Volume 28 No. 6

## *First Things First...*

***At the present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the Saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. For they were pleased to do it...***

**Romans 8: 25-27a**

I want to be sure I'm not comparing apples to oranges because the need of the saints in Jerusalem came because they were persecuted for their faith in Christ as Savior and Lord, but a need is a need, so...

Recently, I read a letter from a sister LCMC congregation on Kodiak Island, Alaska. This is the second appeal our congregation has received from Saint Paul Lutheran Church. I confess upon seeing the first letter (Spring 2024), I summarily passed over it. Since reading the second missal, it has been heavy on my heart that I ignored the plea for help. I want to share a portion of their request.

"We organized and started our church in 1969... We were able to build our church building in the late 1970s. Over the years since that time, in addition to ministering and serving the needs of our congregation, our mission has been to share the love of Christ with others. Our mission projects have included providing a Christian-based preschool to the families in our community, sponsoring 2 refugee families to relocate and get established on the island, assisting seminary students with scholarship money, helping to provide food to people in need in our community and state, supporting people with addiction issues who are in crisis on Kodiak, supporting faith-based organizations in our community, state, nation, and internationally with money for programs wherever the need was greatest.

Now we are hoping that you find it in your heart to help us. Kodiak Island is a beautiful island in the Gulf of Alaska. Our weather conditions are often harsh - combining moisture, cold temperatures, and very high winds, which in combination with salt air and volcanic ash, are very hard on any structures. The roof of our church has suffered a catastrophic failure and will need nearly total reconstruction (from sheetrock to shingles). With the cost of shipping and construction on a remote island, the estimates that we have received to replace the failed roof structure are more than \$500,000. A project of this magnitude is devastating to a church our size. [The average Sunday attendance is 32, almost the same as ours. -editor] Last spring when we realized how much this repair would potentially cost, we reached out to our LCMC church family and asked for help. 68 churches and individual people from those churches responded with prayers and gifts. Between what our members have given and the money from our LCMC family, we have raised \$175,000 of the estimated \$500,000 plus we will need to rebuild our roof. We are thrilled at the responses and prayers we have received and have been able to complete the first of five

phases that will be required to rebuild our roof. We do not know if helping us with a financial gift to help rebuild our roof is something your congregation can do, but we would appreciate you considering our request. If there are any questions that we can answer, please feel free to call."

I encourage you to pray for this sister congregation, and further, to seek the Lord's guidance if you as an individual or we as a congregation can help alleviate the need of Saint Paul Lutheran. According to the website, there are 832 LCMC congregations in the United States. 68 congregations and individuals have already assisted in the need. That means at least 628 congregations have not responded. If those 628 would each donate \$600 to Saint Paul's project that would raise slightly more than the \$375,000 needed to complete their roof replacement. Prayer is appreciated, but when combined with action, it becomes an outpouring of God's grace and blessings. The saying is true: you cannot outgive God. As Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, *"We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part for they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints-and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us..."* (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

God has been gracious and generous toward us in the last few years. Will we trust Him to teach us generosity and respond with thanksgiving for His mercy and grace toward us. The saying is true: "You cannot out give God."

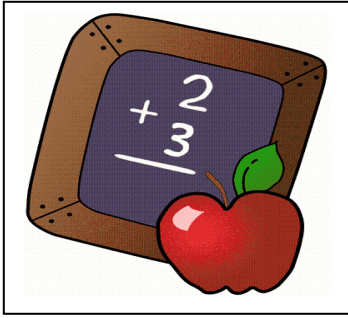
Jesus loves you and so do I! Pastor Grier

+ + + + +

## BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

JUNE 2025

DATE	READING	DATE	READING
1	Micah 4	16	Zechariah 1
2	Micah 5	17	Zechariah 2
3	Micah 6	18	Zechariah 3
4	Micah 7	19	Zechariah 4
5	Nahum 1	20	Zechariah 5
6	Nahum 2	21	Zechariah 6
7	Nahum 3	22	Zechariah 7
8	Habakkuk 1	23	Zechariah 8
9	Habakkuk 2	24	Zechariah 9
10	Habakkuk 3	25	Zechariah 10
11	Zephaniah 1	26	Zechariah 11
12	Zephaniah 2	27	Zechariah 12
13	Zephaniah 3	28	Zechariah 13
14	Haggai 1	29	Zechariah 14
15	Haggai 2	30	Malachi 1



## First School And Day Care

We want to thank everyone who came out to our end of the year Preschool program! We are entering Summer and have so many amazing activities planned. VBS will be held June 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if you have a child or grandchild interested in attending. This year's VBS theme will be, "Yee Haw," a western theme. At Yee-Haw Vacation Bible School, kids experience God's Word in surprising and unforgettable ways! Each day, leaders reinforce one simple Bible truth—which makes it easy for kids to remember and apply to real life!

Many Blessings,  
Bree Joines  
The First School Director

**First School Board Meeting –  
Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.**

## JUNE READINGS

06/01 Leviticus 6:8-13, Psalm 88:8-12, Philippians 1:18b-26, Luke 20:41-21:4  
06/08 Leviticus 6:14-18, Psalm 88:13-18, Philippians 1:27-30, Luke 21:5-9  
06/15 Leviticus 6:19-23, Psalm 89:1-4, Philippians 2:1-4, Luke 21:10-19  
06/22 Leviticus 6:24-30, Psalm 89:5-10, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 21:20-24  
06/29 TBD



06/09 Asa Lundy  
 06/09 Diane Stewart  
 06/10 LeAnne Lundy  
 06/12 David Kight  
 06/15 Ashlyn Hanna  
 06/20 Helen Kight  
 60/20 Marolyn McMillan  
 06/22 Ruth Speckles  
 06/27 Kirbie Woods  
 06/30 Cecil Anderson

**Our FLC Family**  
 Cecil Anderson  
 Dorothy Atchete  
 Harlo & Rhonda Atchete  
 Cora Lee Bishop  
 Pastor & Alys Grier  
 James & Sheila Herringotn  
 Marilyn Kight  
 Larry & Kim Ledwig  
 Lloyd Nelson  
 Ashley Schoeneberg  
 Bentley

**Friends of FLC**  
 Presley Fisher



*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.*

06/09 Colton Labay  
 06/09 Adeleigh Labay  
 06/16 Nerissa House  
 06/16 Kyle House  
 06/21 Thomas Hernandez  
 06/30 Ellis Lundy



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



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



OR



06/09 Joshua & Sarah Barosh  
 06/17 Kevin & Cori Koudela  
 06/27 Chris & Ryan Hanna

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, June 16<sup>th</sup>  
 6:00 p.m.

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

### FLCEC Manna Meals Team

Our FLCEC Manna Meals Team will take a summer break from serving. The May meal provided was the last until the new rotation begins in September. Thank you to our team for their work with the Manna Meals program.



O God, give us times of refreshment and peace in the course of this busy life. Grant that we may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

--- LBW page 45

### First School Board

Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m.

### Church Council

Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



### Pre-Gathering Seminar:

(To explore theme more deeply)  
Seminar begins Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. To attend add \$25 more.

Friday Night Catfish Dinner  
to benefit South Africa Mission Team  
w/ Blessman International  
\$15 early/\$20 late

### LCMC Texas District Gathering

**July 25 - 26, 2025**

(4:30 p.m. Friday evening – 4:00 p.m. Saturday)  
First English Lutheran Church, Victoria, TX

**Theme: All in the Same Boat (Mark 4:35-41)**

**Keynote Speakers: Trevor Sutton,  
Steve Turnbull, Christian Huntley**

**Tickets: \$75 thru 6/30, \$100 after 6/30**  
(includes T Shirt)

**To Register:** Forms are available in the church office  
Or register online:

[www.lcmctexas.org/annual-gathering](http://www.lcmctexas.org/annual-gathering)

# June 2025



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

## June Responsibilities

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Pat Marek

**SEXTON:** Doug Mathews

**USHERS:** Ted Schoenfield, Gaynard Wigginton

**ALTAR GUILD:** Cathy Schoenfield,  
Billie Jean Bram

### READER

1<sup>st</sup> Emma Moulden

8<sup>th</sup> Helen Johnson

15<sup>th</sup> Ty Schoenfield

22<sup>nd</sup> Kirk Marek

29<sup>th</sup> Ted Schoenfield

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



## JUNE FLOWER CALENDAR

1<sup>st</sup> Open

8<sup>th</sup> Open

15<sup>th</sup> Open

22<sup>nd</sup> Open

29<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 on Sunday mornings!**

**Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.**