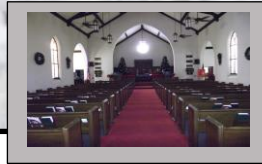


FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

July 2025



Volume 28 No. 7

First Things First...

But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of God. Daniel 3:25

The context

Occasionally, we might see something that seems out of place or too spectacular to be true or that we simply do not understand. Eyes may widen as the jaw drops, the eyes may blink repeatedly or we may rub them with our hand; somehow, an attempt is made to make sense of a nonsensical sight. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon may have done those things when he looked into the fiery furnace he had built to punish those who refused to worship his golden image. Into that conflagration three Hebrew men would supposedly meet their doom. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to the golden idol the king had cast to honor himself. In anger the King ordered fire seven times hotter than the design specifications. The flames were so severe that the soldiers pushing their captives into the flames perished from the intense heat. As the Hebrews fell into the flames the king leaped to his feet in amazement asking, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and cast into the flames?" Those with him answered, "Certainly, O King." The King replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of God." While the bonds were incinerated, the clothing they wore was not singed. Such was their protection that when they walked out of the furnace, their clothing did not even carry the smell of smoke. Nebuchadnezzar realized the fourth man in the flames was the God of Israel, and the King declared, "no other God can save in this way."

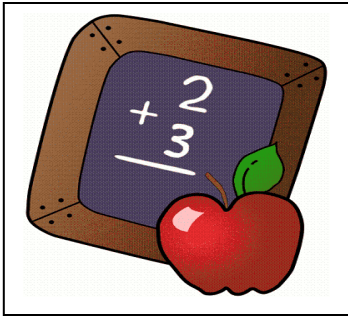
The current "fire"

All the news media (true, fake, legacy, real or name it as you will...) clamor reveals the world as being on the brink of war. Ukraine/Russia, Congo/Rwanda, Ethiopia/Egypt, Gaza/Israel/Iran, India/Pakistan, +16 other wars provide sufficient evidence for the signs of the apocalyptic prophecies in Matthew 24:6 and Mark 13:7, you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. Even without armed, military conflict the headlines scream about anarchy in cities featuring riots, looting, vandalism, acts of arson, and lawlessness. The spread of nuclear weaponry could initiate a worldwide "furnace" consuming most or all of life.

Their Deliverer (and ours)

Those three young men in Daniel chapter 3, presented their faith to King Nebuchadnezzar saying, "Our God is able to deliver us, but if He doesn't, it's all the same. We will not worship any other God (my paraphrase)." It was a pre-Incarnate visitation of Christ that protected the faithful men thrown into the Babylonian furnace. We may not face a fiery furnace, but we do face "heat" in our lives. We are reminded that we go through "fiery" trials to test our faith, to remove the dross of the old Adam clinging to us, and the refinement of the gold of Christ within us (James 1:3; 1 Peter 1:6-7). Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego experienced the personal presence of the Savior, and he delivered them from danger and harm. We have the promise of Jesus, "I am with you always," and "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5). In the hymn, How Firm a Foundation, J. Rippon wrote: When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie; My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply. The flames shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume and your gold to refine. We stand in our faith in the fire!

Jesus loves you and is with you! Pastor Grier



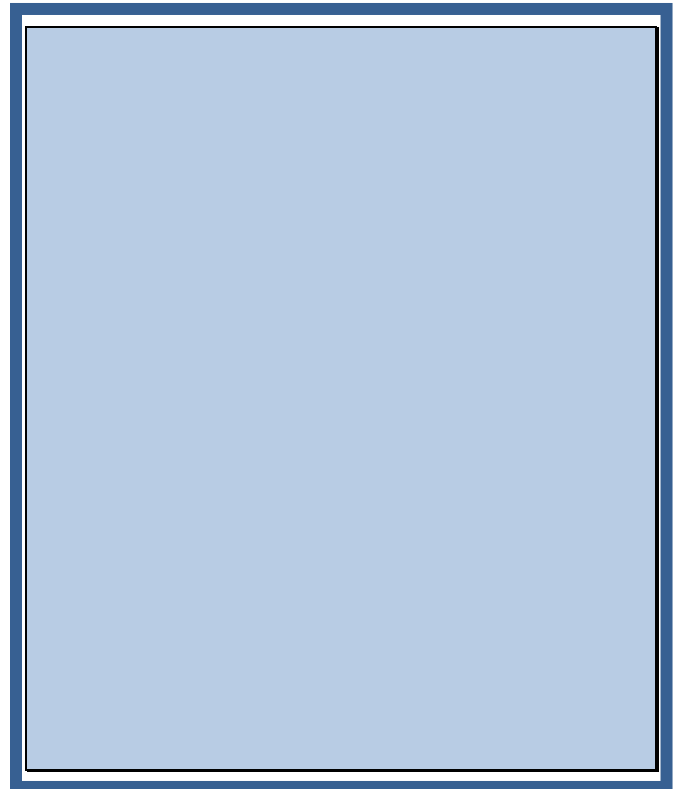
First School And Day Care



The First School had a successful VBS this year! With the Yee-haw western theme they learned about God's amazing gift of Jesus. They all memorized John 3:16 and made amazing memories with songs, dance, crafts, games and interactive Bible lessons. WE are so blessed to do this every year with our daycare kids and our church kids!

Many Blessings,
Bree Joines,
The First School Director

**First School Board Meeting –
Thursday, July 10th, 5:00 p.m.**



JULY READINGS

07/06 Leviticus 7:1-10, Psalm 89:11-14, Philippians 2:12-18, Luke 21:25-28
07/13 Leviticus 7:11-18, Psalm 89:15-19, Philippians 2:19-24, Luke 21:29-33
07/20 Leviticus 7:19-27, Psalm 89:20-24, Philippians 2:25-30, Luke 21:34-36
07/27 TBD



07/11 Jimmy Nielsen
 07/12 Jan Chatel
 07/23 Gloria Campbell
 07/24 Matthew Stewart
 07/26 Linda Atchetee
 07/31 Billie Jean Bram



Our FLC Family

Cecil Anderson
 Harlo & Rhonda Atchetee
 Cora Lee Bishop
 Pastor & Alys Grier
 Marilyn Kight
 Kim & Larry Ledwig
 Lloyd Nelson
 Jimmy Nielsen
 Ashley Schoeneberg
 Bentley

Friends of FLC



07/12 Gaynard Wigginton
 07/17 Benjamin Hernandez
 07/19 Nora Borak
 07/22 Kathleen Joines
 07/29 Cecil Anderson

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
 ALL WHO
 SERVE IN
 THE US MILITARY**



07/13 Leroy & Billie Jean Bram
 07/24 Pastor Clyde & Alys Grier

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

Monday, July 21st
 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Clyde Grier:

Phone: 979-541-6173

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.



First School Board

Thursday, July 10th
5:00 p.m.

Church Council

Monday, July 21st
6:00 p.m.

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



Pre-Gathering Seminar:

(To explore theme more deeply)
Seminar begins Friday, July 25th, 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

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



July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion	7	8	9	10 First School Board Meeting 5PM	11	12
13 Worship Service 10:45 AM	14	15 Newsletter Items Due	16	17	18	19
20 Worship Service 10:45 AM W/Communion	21 Church Council Meeting 6PM	22	23	24	25 LCMC Texas District Gathering Victoria	26 LCMC Texas District Gathering Victoria
27 Worship Service 10:45 AM	28	29	30	31		

July Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Calvin Borak

SEXTON: David Kight

USHERS: Kirk Marek, Alvin Yackel

ALTAR GUILD: Nora Borak, Diane Stewart

READER

6th Calvin Borak
13th Cathy Schoenfield
20th Diane Stewart
27th Ty Schoenfield

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



JULY FLOWER CALENDAR

6th Open
13th Open
20th Open
27th Open

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: 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**



Join us on Sunday mornings!

Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.