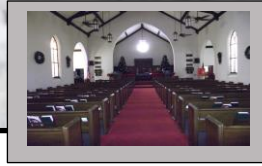


# FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS

BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON

December 2024



Volume 27 No. 12

## *First Things First...*

***But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, the Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.***

**Isaiah 9:1-2**

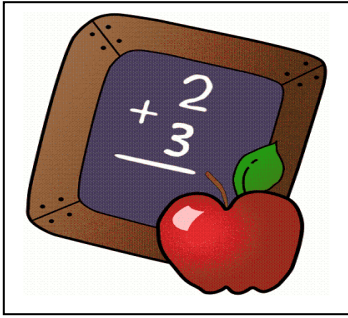
The song, "He's Everything To Me" contains the phrase: "I will celebrate Nativity, for it has a place in history." The message of the hymn recounts a person with a secular view of life who is transformed by a personal relationship with Jesus. The person celebrated Christmas as a historical event, not as a part of God's plan to redeem humanity from sin and death. The lyrics go on to say: "till by faith I met Him face to face and I felt the wonder of His grace...And now He walks beside me day by day, ever watching o'er me lest I stray; helping me to find that narrow way, He's everything to me." I pray this Christmas season brings you closer to the God Who loves you, Who sent His Son to die for your sins, and raised Him from the dead that you may know you have everlasting life. Celebrate Nativity as it truly is "the fullness of time" (Galatians 4:4-7).

This truly is a holiday (and please read that as "holy-day") season. We are in the immediate past of Thanksgiving. Christmas approaches at a ferocious pace. The New Year tailgates on the Nativity Celebration. The maddening rush to prepare for and celebrate these three occasions in the space of some five weeks can rattle and unhinge even the most organized hosts and hostesses. It is a monumental undertaking that can disturb the serenity of praise to our Lord for all He has done, is doing, and will do for us.

### TRYING SOMETHING NEW

The most difficult holiday to embrace as a holy-day would be New Year Eve/New Year Day. We often gather with friends and family to feast on foods that tradition tells us are harbingers of good fortune. The greatest promise of prosperity we have is the promise of heaven that one day will become the new heaven and the new earth. Let us celebrate that promise by coming together on Tuesday, December 31, 4:00-8:00 PM, bring snacks and desserts, your favorite games, and a spirit of joy. We will be home early, redeeming the time in the love of our Lord!

Jesus loves you and so do I! Pastor Grier



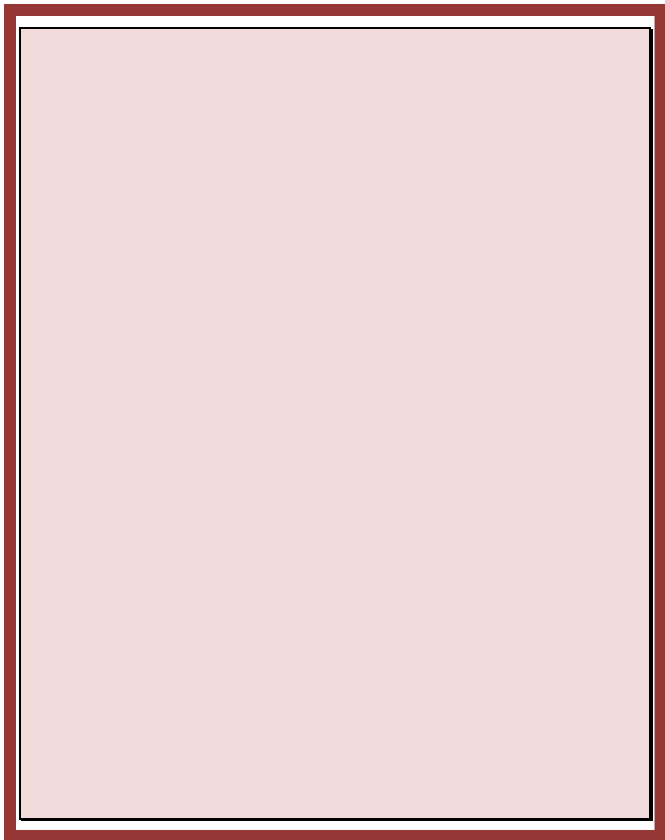
# First School And Day Care

The First School is looking forward to all the Christmas activities we have coming up. Our Annual Preschool Christmas Program will be on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30pm. The program is entitled, "Christmas in Our Jammies." The children will tell the story of Jesus' birth in a fun way with music and illustration. We would love for the congregation to join us that evening for this special occasion. We appreciate all your support and prayers this year!

Many Blessings,  
Bree Joines  
The First School Director

**First School Board Meeting  
Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.**

**Preschool Christmas Program  
Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.**

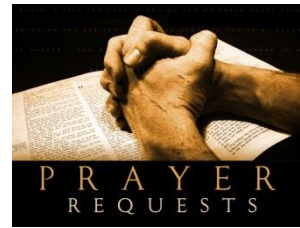


## DECEMBER READINGS

- 12/01 Exodus 39:1-7, Psalm 80:16-19, Galatians 6:1-10, Luke 15:1-7
- 12/08 Exodus 39:8-17, Psalm 81:1-4, Galatians 6:11-18, Luke 15:8-10
- 12/15 Exodus 39:18-21, Psalm 81:5-8, Ephesians 1:1-14, Luke 15:11-32
- 12/22 Exodus 39:22-31, Psalm 81:9-12, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 16:1-13
- 12/29 Exodus 39:32-43, Psalm 81:13-16, Ephesians 2:1-10, Luke 16:14-18

# happy birthday

- 12/08 Leroy Bram
- 12/08 James Stewart
- 12/09 Ed Campbell
- 12/13 Doug Mathews
- 12/13 Daniel Wilfert
- 12/15 Jake Herrington
- 12/15 Jacqueline Lundy
- 12/18 Pat Marek
- 12/19 Karen Kight
- 12/21 Kim Ledwig
- 12/25 Loretta Johnson
- 12/26 Cori Koudela
- 12/28 Emma Jo Barosh
- 12/31 Callie Dujka
- 12/31 Cash Dujka



### Our FLC Family

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

### Friends of FLC



- 12/05 Axel Koudela
- 12/07 Michael Barosh
- 12/14 Lori Cykala
- 12/23 Becky Sample
- 12/23 Ted Schoenfield
- 12/26 Daniel Wilfert



PRAY FOR  
ALL WHO  
SERVE IN  
THE US MILITARY

### WE'RE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US



OR



- 12/01 Kyle & Haley Orsak
- 12/11 Philip & Sheila Miller
- 12/22 David & Karen Kight

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, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

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

## Poinsettias

If you would like to place poinsettias in church the cost is \$13.00.

Look for the order form in the Narthex.

## Flower Chart

The Flower Chart (now sign up pages) for the new year, 2025 is available in the Narthex. Please choose your special dates and sign up to provide flowers for our worship services.

## 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.

## Advent Service Theme: His Name Shall Be Called

Dec. 4 – Wonderful Counselor  
Dec. 11 – Mighty God  
Dec. 18 – Everlasting Father  
Dec. 24 – Prince of Peace

+ + + +

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

## First School Board

Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m.

## Church Council

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

A = Always

S = Say

A = A

P = Prayer



## Looking Ahead:

*The Three Days of Prayer*

January 7, 8, and 9, 2025

“FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN,  
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN;  
AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL  
BE UPON HIS SHOULDER, AND HIS NAME  
WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL  
COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD,  
EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.”  
— ISAIAH 9:6





# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion</i>	2	3	4 <i>Soup Supper 6:15 PM Advent Service 7:00PM</i>	5	6	7
8 <i>Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM</i>	9	10 <i>Newsletter Items Due</i>	11 <i>FS Board Meeting 5PM Soup Supper 6:15 PM Advent Service 7:00PM</i>	12 <i>First School Christmas Program 6:30PM</i>	13	14
15 <i>Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion</i>	16 <i>Church Council Meeting 6PM</i>	17	18 <i>Soup Supper 6:15PM Advent Service 7:00PM</i>	19	20	21
22 <i>Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM</i>	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion 6:00PM</i>	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26	27	28
29 <i>Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM</i>	30	31				

## December Responsibilities

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Calvin Borak

**SEXTON:** David Kight

**USHERS:** James Stewart, Kirk Marek

**ALTAR GUILD:** David & Karen Kight

### READER

1<sup>st</sup> Calvin Borak  
8<sup>th</sup> Cathy Schoenfield  
15<sup>th</sup> Diane Stewart  
22<sup>nd</sup> Helen Johnson  
29<sup>th</sup> Ty Schoenfield

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



## DECEMBER FLOWER CALENDAR

1<sup>st</sup> Kirk & Pat Marek  
8<sup>th</sup> Pastor & Alys Grier  
15<sup>th</sup> Open  
22<sup>nd</sup> Open  
29<sup>th</sup> Poinsettias



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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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*

**December**

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 Christmas Eve Service  
on Tuesday evening, December 24<sup>th</sup>!**

**Worship Service with Candlelight and  
Holy Communion – 6:00 p.m.**