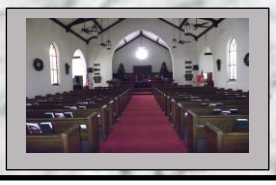
FIRST FRUITS

WE GIVE OUR FIRST FRUITS  **BECAUSE HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON**

March 2026 **Volume 29 No. 3**

First Things First...

This I Believe

"...in your hearts honor Christ, the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you yet do it with gentleness and respect." **1 Peter 3:15**

Belief exerts a powerful influence on every aspect of life. As Peter says above, there is a hope in everyone who believes in Christ the Lord. Each one of us should be ready, at any time, to make a defense (tell the reason) for that hope. In the upcoming issues of *First Fruits,* I share summaries of what I believe so that you may know me more fully and so you may see the reason for the hope that is in me. This month resumes the expansion of my belief regarding prayer.

Pray without ceasing. **1 Thessalonians 5:17**
...Be constant in prayer. **Romans 12:12**
Continue constantly in prayer... **Colossians 4:2**
O Lord, God of my salvation, I cry out day and night before You. **Psalm 88:1**

Does the Holy Spirit really mean we should pray *without ceasing*? If so, what happens to eating, drinking, not to mention sleeping, working or any other activity or endeavor? Obviously, we cannot verbally pray twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. We can have an open heart, ready to pray anytime and anywhere. We can talk with (and listen to) God when and where we need or desire.

In the previous article I set the premise that we should make and take time to pray. When should we pray and how long should we pray? Unlike false religions which prescribe times, postures, words, and even compass points, as Christians, we are to pray wherever and whenever we are urged, led or inspired to pray. Scripture does not designate a required time or length to our prayers; there is the encouragement to "pray without ceasing." There are certain traditional and voluntary times- such as morning, evening, and three times a day-that beget and aid a strong devotional life. Daniel 6: 10 reveals that he famously prayed three times a day, often linked to morning, noon, and evening. Jesus often prayed early in the morning (Mark 1:35). In Acts we are told Peter went to pray at the "sixth hour" (noon) (Acts 10: 9) and Peter and John went at the ninth hour (3 PM) (Acts 3 :1). Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns at Midnight (Acts 16:25). There are no strict, set times of prayer because prayer is supposed to be the result of a personal, constant, loving relationship with the Lord our God seen in a conversational communication at any time of day or night.

The prayers recorded in Scripture range from a few words, such as Peter's prayer, “Lord, save me!” (Matthew 14:30) to the eloquent and far-reaching petitions of Christ's High Priestly Prayer (John 17). If those recorded prayers vary so greatly in length, then how long should our prayers be? The common-sense answer is akin to Abraham Lincon’s answer to an interviewer’s question, “How long should a man’s legs be?” Lincoln replied, “Long enough to reach the ground.” Prayers should be long enough to address the adoration God deserves and the concerns on the heart and mind of the petitioner. We do well to remember Jesus’ prayer parameters in Matthew 6:5-8. Jesus warns, ***“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners that they may be seen by others…And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them…*** (Matthew 6:5a,7) Rather, He instructs. ***“But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you*** (Matthew 6:6). One-on-One with our Father may become the most joyous time of every day.

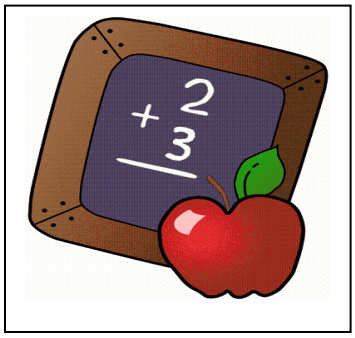
What if we do not feel we know how to pray or what to say? We can remember Romans 6:26-27: ***Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us in groanings too deep for words. And He Who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.***

Praying for and with you, Pastor Grier

P.S. Jesus loves you and so do I!

BIBLE READING SEDULE
March 2026

DATE	READING	DATE	READING
1	Revelation 2	17	Revelation 18
2	Revelation 3	18	Revelation 19
3	Revelation 4	19	Revelation 20
4	Revelation 5	20	Revelation 21
5	Revelation 6	21	Revelation 22
6	Revelation 7	22	Proverbs 1
7	Revelation 8	23	Psalms 1
8	Revelation 9	24	Proverbs 2
9	Revelation 10	25	Psalms 2
10	Revelation 11	26	Proverbs 3
11	Revelation 12	27	Psalms 3
12	Revelation 13	28	Proverbs 4
13	Revelation 14	29	Psalms 4
14	Revelation 15	30	Proverbs 5
15	Revelation 16	31	Psalms 5
16	Revelation 17		



First School And Day Care

We are happy to announce we are finished with phase 1 of our new building renovations at 123 W First Street! We will be putting in the application for a permit to provide care for our after-school children at that location. Please keep us in prayer as we navigate this big move!

Many Blessings,
Bree Joines
The First School Director

First School Board Meeting –
Thursday, March 12th, at 5:30 p.m.

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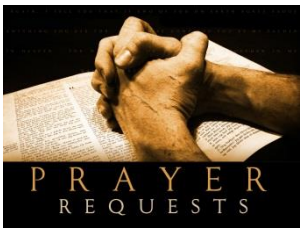
Women of the Word Easter Bible lesson
Sunday, March 8, 2026 2:00-3:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church Trued Room
Come visit with fellow Christian women and meet Sarah Williams of Purely Pampered Soaps. Bring a friend!

March Readings

03/01 Genesis 12:1-9, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-8,13-17, John 3:1-17
03/08 Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95:1-9, Romans 5:1-8, John 4:5-26
03/15 Isaiah 42:14-21, Psalm 142, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-7,13-17,34-39
03/22 Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:1-11, John 11:1-45
03/29 Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 118:19-29, Philippians 2:5-11, John 12:20-43

03/07 Ryan Woodson
03/08 Thomas Hernandez
03/10 Misty Ledwig
03/16 James Herrington
03/29 Abigail Hernandez



Our FLC Family

Cecil Anderson
Rhonda Atchetee
Cora Lee Bishop
Pastor & Alys Grier
Charlotte Hansen
James & Sheila Herrington
Marilyn Kight
Kim & Larry Ledwig
Lloyd Nelson
Ashley Schoeneberg
Bentley

Friends of FLC

Gerald Ripple
Mckenna & Connor Jones

03/06 Jaqueline Lundy
03/06 Cathy Schoenfield
03/10 Rachel Hernandez
03/13 Brantley Doege
03/13 Alvin Yackel
03/23 Sheila Miller
03/25 Emma Jo Barosh

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

03/18 Kirk & Nerissa House
03/19 Saby & Lynette Hernandez
03/30 Doug & Cindy Mathews

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, March 16th
6:00 p.m.

Pastor Clyde Grier:
Phone: 979-541-6173

FLCEC Manna Meals Team

Our FLCEC Manna Meals Team will not have a time to serve in March.

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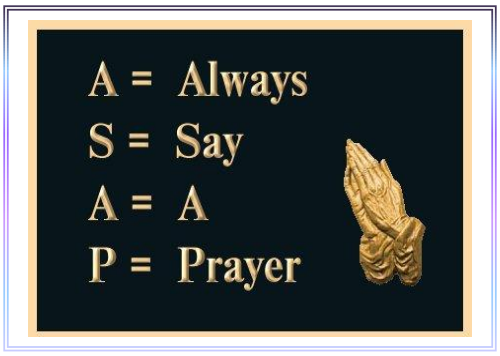
Spring Forward!

On Sunday, March 8th, daylight saving time begins! Remember to "spring forward" – turn your clocks ahead one hour so you will be on time for our morning service.

Elected to Church Council:
Jan Chatel, Lionel Chatel, Doug Mathews
Continuing on Church Council:
Calvin Borak, Will Joines,
Karen Kight, Cindy Mathews
Elected to First School Board:
Billlie Jean Bram, Cathy Schoenfield, Diane Stewart
Continuing on First School Board
Helen Kight, Dagny Thane
Elected to Cemetery Board:
David Kight
Continuing on Cemetery Board:
Calvin Borak, Pat Marek
Auditors – 2026
Billie Jean Bram, Nora Borak
Nominating Committee – 2026
Billie Jean Bram, Kathy Joines, Calvin Borak

First School Board
Thursday, March 12th
5:30 p.m.

Church Council
Monday, March 16th
6:00 p.m.



Easter Lilies

Order forms for Easter lilies will be available in the Narthex and the church office in March. A 6" lily will be $12.30 and a calla lily will be $12.99.

Please make your check out to First Lutheran Church and designate "Easter Lily" on your check.

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion	2	3	4 Soup Supper 6:00-6:45 PM Lenten Service 7:00PM	5	6	7
8 Worship Service 10:45 AM	9	10	11 Soup Supper 6:00-6:45 PM Lenten Service 7:00PM	12 FS Board Meeting 5:30PM	13	14
15 Worship Service 10:45 AM w/Communion	16 Church Council Meeting 6:00PM	17 Newsletter Items Due	18 Soup Supper 6:00-6:45 PM Lenten Service 7:00PM	19	20	21
22 Worship Service 10:45 AM	23	24	25 Soup Supper 6:00-6:45 PM Lenten Service 7:00PM	26	27	28
29 Worship Service 10:45 AM	30	31				

March Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Jimmy Nielsen
SEXTON: Doug Mathews
USHERS: Doug Mathews, James Stewart
ALTAR GUILD: Cindy Mathews, Helen Johnson

READER

1st Dagny Thane
8th Ted Schoenfield
15th Helen Johnson
22nd Calvin Borak
29th Cathy Schoenfield

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

MARCH FLOWER CALENDAR

1st Open
8th Open
15th Open
22nd Open
29th 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, Jan Chatel, Lionel Chatel, Will Joines, Karen Kight, Cindy Mathews, Doug Mathews,

Lenten Schedule

Lenten Services – Wednesdays – 7:00pm (Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m.)

March 4th
March 11th
March 18th
March 25th

OUR NEWSLETTER CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.FIRSTLUTHERANEC.COM

Join us for worship on Sunday mornings!

Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.