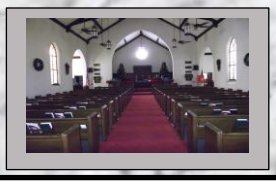
FIRST FRUITS

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



April 2026 Volume 29 No. 4

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.

And He (Jesus) said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your Name. Your Kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'" **Luke 11:2-4**

(Jesus said,) "Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your Kingdom come, Your Will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'" **Matthew 6:9-13**

Often recited, often sung, often studied, often debated, often neglected even when spoken. Unfortunately, this describes the usage of the precious words that Christ spoke when queried, "Teach us to pray." Even the variations between Matthew's recollection and Luke's investigation are used as weapons against those who do not pray it as "we" pray it. Despite some minor disputes, the Lord's Prayer stars as a model prayer for every generation and every denomination of Christianity.

This prayer carries greater impact than we can imagine. The spiritual mindset when speaking the words remind those who speak and those who hear of the immense, intense, and resolute love which the Lord our God holds toward His children. However, because of its frequent use, that which was meant to lift us to the throne of God, becomes nothing more than a rote repetition of syllables and sounds. Setting aside the personal examination and any subsequent individual and corporate alterations for prayer, today I address the structure of what many Christians name as the "Our Father."

Looking at it as historically and frequently taught, the Lord's Prayer can be dissected into a Salutation, seven Petitions, and a Doxology. Further, the seven petitions can be grouped into three sets: Set One regards the petitioner's relationship with God and the missional calling of that relationship; Set Two (a set of one petition) concerns spiritual and material needs; Set Three affects the disciple's attitude and behavior as a follower of the Messiah. The Doxology does not appear in either record of Jesus' words. As a concluding "praise song," it appears to have been added early and widely in the worship of the

Apostolic Church.[1] The following chart reveals the construct of the prayer, utilizing the verbiage as we usually recite it.

The Salutation

Our Father, Who art in Heaven,

The Petitions

Set One

Hallowed be Thy Name,
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy Will be done,
On Earth as it is in Heaven.

Set Two

Give us this day our daily bread.

Set Three

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

The Doxology

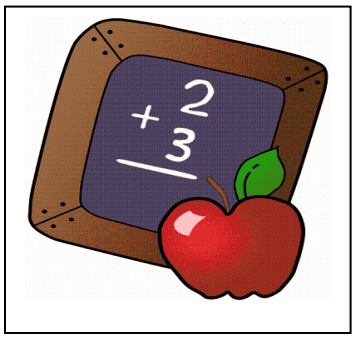
For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.

A final thought from the arrangement and content of the petitions. Eighty-seven and one-half percent (87.5%) of the requests address spiritual matters. Only the words "Give us this day our daily bread" plead for physiological provisions. And these words can apply for spiritual nutrition as recorded in Matthew 4:4 when Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3, saying "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Considering this spiritual content, we must examine our own prayers to see if we may need to consider changing the nature of our petitions. To what extent are our requests to the Father focused on spiritual matters as opposed to material concerns? We may never attain the percentage of the Lord's Prayer, but we can continually strive to improve.

[1]In the early church, particularly in the eastern half of the Roman Empire, Christians began adding the doxology to the recitation of the Lord's Prayer during Mass. The *Didache,* a first-century manual of Christian morals and practices, mentions the doxology as part of the prayer.
Source: EWTN Global Catholic Television Network

May the joy of the Resurrection of our Lord be the foundation for your life and equip you every day for the "good works which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10b).

Jesus loves you and so do we! Pastor and Alys



First School And Day Care

The First School is gearing up in Spring for Easter! We are having weekly lessons that give the children knowledge of stories in the Bible and what the true meaning of Easter is! The First School will have our annual egg hunts with each classroom. We cannot wait until we can celebrate our risen Savior!! Please continue to pray for the children as they hear the message – that it takes root in their hearts!

Many Blessings,
Bree Joines
First School Director

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First School Board Meeting -
Thursday, April 9th at 5:30 p.m.

April Readings

04/05 Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 16, Colossians 3:1-4, Matthew 28:1-10
04/12 Acts 5:29-42, Psalm 148, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31
04/19 Acts 2:14a,36-41, Psalm 116:1-14 1 Peter 1:17-25, Luke 24:14-35
04/26 Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 14:1-14

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

Friends of FLC

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 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

04/19 Calvin & Nora Borak

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, April 20th
6:00 p.m.

Pastor Clyde Grier:
Phone: 979-541-6173

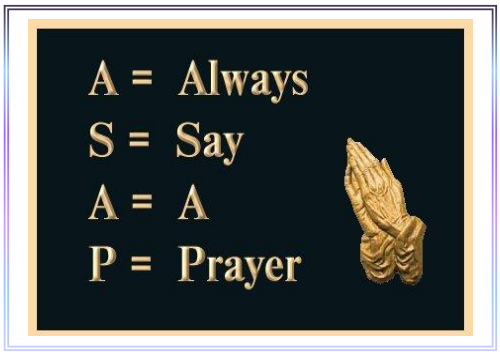
Women of the Word

The women have decided to meet once a month on the first Thursday evening for Bible Study.

They plan to meet on Thursday, May 7th at 6:00 P.M. in the Trued Room.

First School Board
Thursday, April 9th
5:30 p.m.

Church Council
Monday, April 20th
6:00 p.m.



FLCEC Manna Meals Team

Our Manna Meals Team will serve on Monday, April 13th. Please let Cathy Schoenfield know if you will be able to help.

April 2026

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

April Responsibilities

ASSISTING MINISTER: Pat Marek
SEXTON: Lionel Chatel
USHERS: Kirk House, Will Joines
ALTAR GUILD: Jan Chatel & Kathleen Joines

READER

5th Ty Schoenfield
12th Diane Stewart
19th Kirk Marek
26th Dagny Thane

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

APRIL FLOWER CALENDAR

5th Lilies
12th Open
19th Open
26th 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

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS: Calvin Borak, Jan Chatel, Lionel Chatel, Will Joines, Karen Kight, Cindy Mathews, & Doug Mathews

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.