

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

250 W. Decatur St.

Decatur, Illinois

(217) 423-7783

Website: www.felcdecatur.org

Email: felc_decatur@outlook.com

We have a livestream option on our website!

<https://felcdecatur.org/live>



October 15, 2023, at 9:30 am
HOLY COMMUNION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.**

**We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

*GATHERING SONG

"Oh, Sing to God Above"

ELW #555

GREETING

ELW p. 184

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also, with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING:

ISAIAH 25:1-9

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God’s loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth “wild grapes” of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,

for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM (Read Responsively)

PSALM 23

¹The LORD¹ is my shepherd;

I shall not ¹ be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures
and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.**

³You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall ¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ¹ comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence ¹ of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ¹ running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the ¹ LORD forever.**

SECOND READING:

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL READING:**

MATTHEW 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Let Us Go Now to the Banquet”

ELW #523

APOSTLES CREED

ELW p. 105

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in peace, staying firm in the Lord.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: For green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural world (*local natural areas may be named*), that creation flourishes and humankind lives in right relationship with all you have made.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: For the nations of the world and all who hold positions of authority, that they govern in accordance with God's vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace and prosperity for all.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy that their faithful witness guides your church until the day we join them at your heavenly feast.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

*** PEACE**

MEAL

OFFERING

FELC BAND

Give Thanks

(congregation is invited to sing "Give Thanks" along with the Band)

Chorus

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son

Verse

And now let the weak say I am strong
Let the poor say I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us

Ending

Give thanks

OFFERING PRAYER

God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 190

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 190

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 191 (right side)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

At each worship service FELC celebrates communion around the altar rail using non-alcoholic sacramental wine so that all present may receive God's Grace in this sacrament. If anyone is unable to come to the altar, the Pastor and assistants will bring the sacrament to you. (If possible, please alert the Pastor or Assistant prior to Worship service if you want communion at your seat). You are also welcome to pick up a disposable chalice containing wine or juice at the back of the church. If you are taking communion at the rail and feel less steady on your feet, feel free to come to the front of the communion rail rather than walking around toward the back.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word,

Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.

Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet,

where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

SENDING***BLESSING**

The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,

and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

ELW #547

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews and Family, Mary Ellen & Tom Burns, Debra Jones,

Jan Lawson, Carolyn Renton, Anna Young

*If you’d like to add someone to the Prayer Request list, please contact Kay at the office.
Prayer requests remain on the list for 3 weeks and can be extended longer at your request.*

Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Rita Augsburger
Assisting Minister	Lucas Reynolds
Coordinator of Music and Technology/Organist/Handbells	Rick Strine
Technical Director	Jeremy Hahn
Audio/Visual	Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Bill Fitzgerrel
Greeters	Gary & Nora Beck, Dan Lynch
Check-In	Ruth Nihiser & Marsha Thornhill
Communion Aide	Peg Allgeier
Money Counters	Gary Beck, Larry Haab, Sheryl Brilley
Flowers	Carol Dellert in Memory of James Dellert
Acolyte	Ella Taute
Band	Milt & Carla Scott, Janice Isaacs, Judy Oettel, Laura Philips, Marty Brilley

Welcome to all of you here and to those participating on-line

Announcements

1. The AMELCA Team served 48 clients on Wednesday, October 11th.
2. The Grief Group will meet Monday the 16th, 11:00am-12:30pm in the Lounge.
3. The Book Study group will meet Monday the 16th, at 7:00pm. You have the option to meet in person or via zoom. We will discuss Parts 2 & 3.
4. Blessing of the Quilts will be next Sunday the 22nd along with noisy offering. Shipping costs will be covered by the noisy offering. Please dig deep; shipping is expensive.
5. Quilt Packing will take place Wednesday the 18th, from 12:00pm-4:30pm and Thursday the 19th, from 8:30am-12:00pm in the fellowship hall. Quilt loading & gathering will be Saturday the 28th.
6. Art Workshop will meet Thursday the 19th, from 1:00pm-2:30pm in the fellowship hall.
7. Please enjoy an afternoon of solo and chamber music by members of the Millikin-Decatur Symphony on Sunday, October 29th at 2:00pm in the Sanctuary here at FELC. Admission is free. Please take one (or more) of the flyers and share them with friends, family, neighbors, organizations, co-workers, etc.
8. Baby Jesus donations will be collected from the first of November to December 10th. Donations will go to DMH since there's no longer a maternity ward at St. Mary's.
9. In honor of Clergy Appreciation Month, we celebrate the ministry of Pastor Rita at FELC. We thank God for her leadership and ministry for our church family.

Let us Prepare our Hearts and Minds for Worship

UPCOMING DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

MEET, EAT & GREET
(MEG)

Upcoming MEG Luncheons
Thursday's at Noon

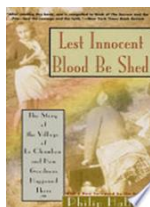
November 9
December 14



Grief Group is meeting twice a month from 11am-12:30pm. The next scheduled meetings are 10/16 in the Lounge & 10/23 in the Fellowship Hall.



Art Workshop Oil Pastel Techniques
Join the fun on Thursday October 19th
From 1:00pm-2:30pm



LEST INNOCENT BLOOD BE SHED - BOOK STUDY will meet Monday, 10/16 & 10/30 at 7:00pm in person in the office conference room or via zoom. Pastor Rita has a few more books if you want to join the group.



Please enjoy an afternoon of solo and chamber music by members of the Millikin-Decatur Symphony on Sunday, October 29th beginning at 2:00pm in the Sanctuary here at FELC. Admission is free. Please take some flyers (located in the narthex) and share them with friends, family, neighbors, organizations, co-workers, etc. It would be great to fill the sanctuary!



**ADVENT "BARN
PAINT" RETREAT**

Saturday, December 9th 9:00am-12:00pm
FELC Fellowship Hall

Come spend a morning of creativity and preparing your heart for the wonderful glory of the Incarnation – Emmanuel "God with Us"! Participants will paint on a 10"x10" or 12"x12" board with the design pre-drawn. There is no cost for this gathering. Supplies are covered by Thrivent Choice Dollars. Please bring a hair dryer that has a cool setting (for a faster drying time of paint). Sign-up in the office or with Pastor Rita by the end of October.

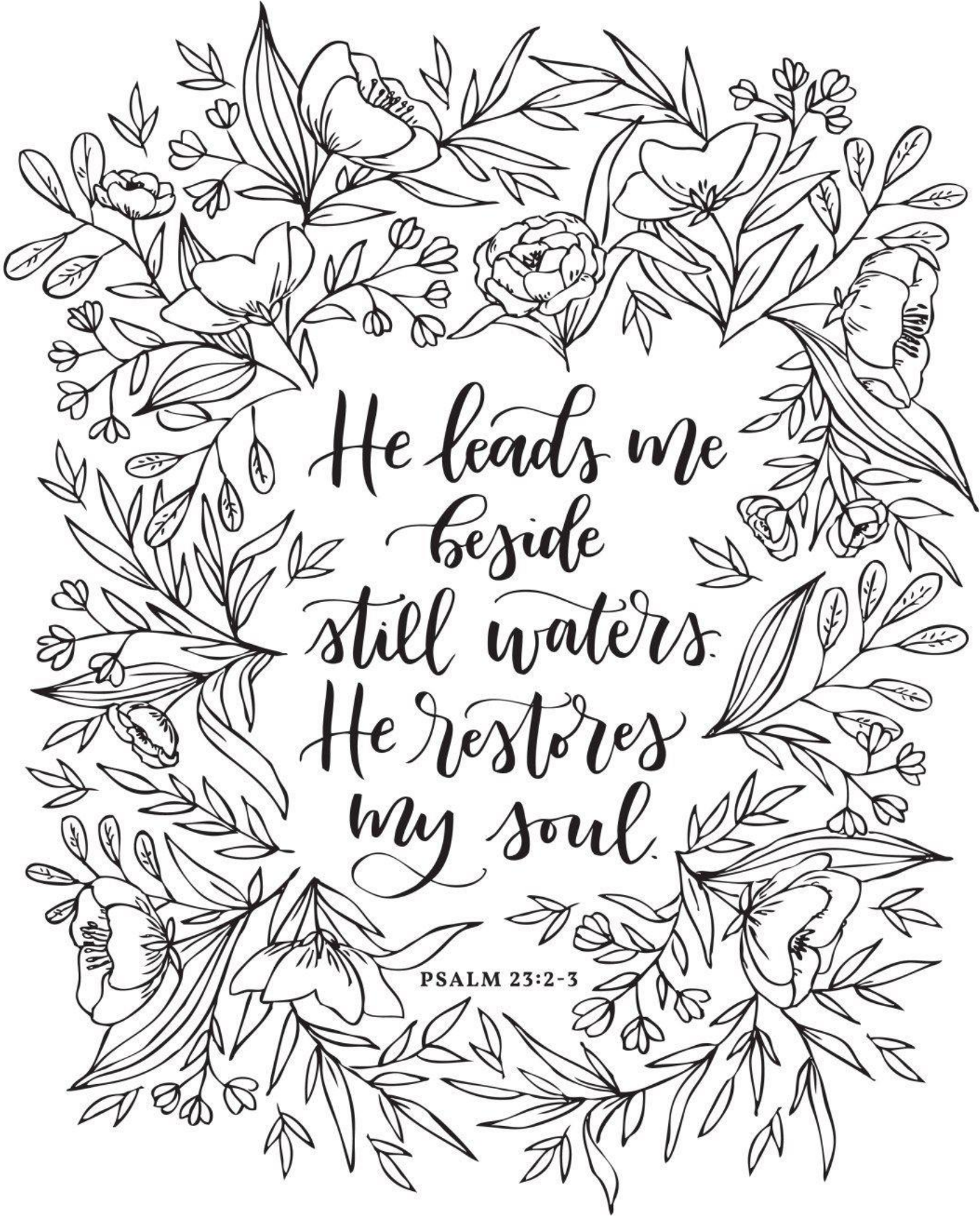
Psalm 23 Word Search

W P Q D G S T K S E I G N D C
O P Y U A C D H I N G O J A R
J V I S E V E A P N U O X H E
C D E T E P I E E E G D P F V
E C O R H I E D V L G N A M E
X R M E F H M F E A R E T L R
P D R L S L D E U K A S H A O
Y D S D A N O I N T S S L S F
T E U Q N A B W Y E S N M P O
Q W I L T K L E S U O H H X Z

anoint
banquet
David
enemies
fear
forever
goodness
grass
guide



house
king
leads
overflows
path
protect
psalm
sheep
shepherd



He leads me
beside
still waters.
He restores
my soul.

PSALM 23:2-3