

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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We have a livestream option on our website!

<https://felcdecatur.org/live>



October 22, 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

"O God of Every Nation"

ELW #713

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.**

***KYRIE**

ELW p. 184

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Glory to God”

ELW p. 185-186

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING:

ISAIAH 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,

whose right hand I have grasped

to subdue nations before him

and strip kings of their robes,

to open doors before him—

and the gates shall not be closed:

²I will go before you

and level the mountains,

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze

and cut through the bars of iron,

³I will give you the treasures of darkness

and riches hidden in secret places,

so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,

the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,

and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name,

I surname you, though you do not know me.

⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other;

besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,

⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun

and from the west, that there is no one besides me;

I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷I form light and create darkness,

I make weal and create woe;

I the LORD do all these things.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples
with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING:

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by
God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only,
but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of
persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the

Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

ELW p. 188

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL READING:**

MATTHEW 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

SERMON

QUILT BLESSING - "HANDS AND FEET"

A litany inspired by Teresa of Avila, by Matt Hackworth, Lutheran World Reliefs Senior Advisor, Marketing and Communications

Gracious God, you created light in the darkness. You saw that light was good and separated it from all that was bad. You created the light in stars to lead Your people from bondage, and so, that we might see the better way of living, among one another, and for You.

We are the hands and feet of Christ in Your World.

God, you created the very idea of home in a world of chaos, the places where we feel safe, the places where we sense Your peace. You lead us to share this peace with one another, and with the world. The peace found in following the one You sent to lead us, Christ Jesus.

We are the hands and feet of Christ in Your World.

God, you created grace so we might survive the world and its evil. Grace for us, in showing us love even as we are not perfect. Grace for one another when we offend and when we commend. Grace for a world that can only feel it when we are compelled to act.

We are the hands and feet of Christ in Your World.

Gracious God, we ask that you take these gifts of earthly meaning (quilts & school kits). We ask you to make them Your light in someone's darkness. We ask you to make them Your comfort in another's chaos. We ask you to make them Your grace so that Your love can live through us, as

We are the hands and feet of Christ in Your World.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"

ELW #871

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: Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love.

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

A: Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation.

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

A: Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion.

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

A: Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering. Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. We especially remember those in war torn areas.

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

A: Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

A: Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom.
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

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.

COMMUNION

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 191

***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**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

ELW #705

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.
Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Rita Augsburg
Assisting Minister	Janice Isaacs
Coordinator of Music and Technology/Organist/Handbells	Rick Strine
Technical Director	Jeremy Hahn
Audio/Visual	Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	John Malachowski
Greeters	Larry Osborne, Kris Sites, Jan Stoll
Check-In	Ruth Nihiser & Marsha Thornhill
Communion Aide	Gary Beck
Money Counters	Gary Beck, Larry Haab, Sheryl Brilley
Acolyte	Sienna Romine

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.*

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

Announcements

1. Blessing of the Quilts is today, Sunday the 22nd, along with noisy offering. Shipping costs will be covered by the noisy offering. Please dig deep; shipping is expensive. Quilt loading & gathering will be next Saturday the 28th.
2. The AMELCA Team served 57 clients on Wednesday, October 18th.
3. The Grief Group will meet Monday the 23rd from 11:00am-12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.
4. Advent “Barn Paint” Retreat is Saturday, December 9th, 9:00am-12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome! We want to make sure we have adequate supplies for all participants so please sign up by the end of October.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Toys for Tots donation boxes will be in our Narthex from the first of November to early December.
8. The Book Study Group will meet Monday October 30th at 7:00pm to discuss Part 4 of “*Lest Innocent Blood be Shed*”. Part 5, the final portion of the book, will be discussed on November 6th.
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

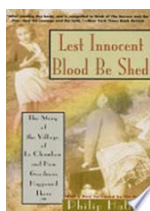
MEET, EAT & GREET
(MEG)

Upcoming MEG Luncheons
Thursday's at Noon

November 9
December 14



Grief Group next scheduled meeting is 10/23 in the Fellowship Hall.



LEST INNOCENT BLOOD BE SHED - BOOK STUDY will meet Monday 10/30 at 7:00pm in person in the office conference room or via zoom. We will discuss Parts 4 & 5.



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.

