

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Decatur, Illinois

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We have a livestream option on our website!

<https://felcdecatur.org/live>



November 5, 2023, at 9:30 am

HOLY COMMUNION

ALL SAINTS

Come Experience God's Unlimited Grace, in a Most Welcoming Place

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Almighty God,
**to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:**
**cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may, perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

Gracious God,
**Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent.
In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do.
Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you,
in newness of life through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ
may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

*GATHERING SONG

“For All Your Saints, O Lord”

ELW #427

GREETING

ELW p. 138

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,

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING:

REVELATION 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today’s reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: “Who is able to stand?” The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God’s protection and a vision of victory.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

¹I will bless the LORD¹ at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be ¹ in my mouth.
²**I will glory ¹ in the LORD;**
let the lowly hear ¹ and rejoice.
³Proclaim with me the greatness ¹ of the LORD;
let us exalt God's ¹ name together.
⁴**I sought the LORD, who ¹ answered me**
and delivered me from ¹ all my terrors.
⁵Look upon the LORD¹ and be radiant,
and let not your faces ¹ be ashamed.
⁶**I called in my affliction, and ¹ the LORD heard me**
and saved me from ¹ all my troubles.
⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who ¹ fear the LORD
and de- ¹ livers them.
⁸**Taste and see that the ¹ LORD is good;**
happy are they who take ref- ¹ uge in God!
⁹Fear the LORD, you saints ¹ of the LORD,
for those who fear the ¹ LORD lack nothing.
¹⁰**The lions are in want and ¹ suffer hunger,**
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing ¹ that is good.
²²O LORD, you redeem the life ¹ of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will ¹ not be punished.

SECOND READING:

1 JOHN 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

ELW p. 142

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL READING:**

MATTHEW 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

SERMON

CANDLE LIGHTING AND REMEMBRANCE

As we celebrate this, All Saints Sunday, let us remember those who have touched our lives in a special way, those who have helped light our way on earth, but who now enjoy eternal light and life in heaven. I invite you to think of those who have been a light to you.

(A brief silence)

We use the symbol of light that Christ used to proclaim his presence among us.

John 8:12 *“I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”*

We light a candle for those loved ones at FELC who have died since last All Saints Day.

(bell toll and light candle as names are mentioned)

- ❖ Judy Leschewski
- ❖ Dante Berry
- ❖ Al Weidlich
- ❖ Dave Gendry
- ❖ Ann Haab
- ❖ David Fyke
- ❖ Phyllis Johnson
- ❖ Bill Blackburn
- ❖ Bob Cox
- ❖ Vern Torrens
- ❖ Ellen Snowdon
- ❖ Candle for all those others we hold in our hearts.

The light of remembrance shines before all here in this gathering.

Let us pray,

Almighty God, grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Give Thanks for Saints”

ELW #428

NICENE CREED

ELW p. 104

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: Holy God, the church triumphant gathers around your throne to praise you. We join them in worship and remember your sustaining grace in every generation. Heal our divisions; show us unity in your presence.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Holy creator, we marvel at your creation revealed in the cycle of seasons, changing landscapes, and the rise and fall of ocean tides. Turn us from selfish consumption and open us to gentle healing of the earth so all creation thrives.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Holy advocate, we lift grateful hearts for the ability to vote and elect leaders. Grant wisdom to those who will be elected and safety to poll workers. May civic leaders serve the whole community, especially all who are underrepresented or oppressed.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Holy healer, bless the brokenhearted and all who mourn. Send your compassion to all who grieve, grant wholeness to those who are sick, and accompany the dying. Be near to all who need you.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Holy comforter, we pray for this congregation, that the promise of your new life may be shared and experienced. We pray for the funeral ministry of this congregation, that families and friends seeking your love find it here.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Holy One, for the saints who now rest in your mercy, we give you thanks. We remember their witness of faithfulness and love. Praise to you for the eternal life they have been given through Jesus Christ.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*** PEACE**

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray,

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among the that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 144

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;
by the witness of the saints you show us the hope of our calling, and strengthen us to run the
race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy, and rejoice with them in glory.
And so, with all the saints,
with the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 144

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 145 (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,

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock, and our redeemer. Amen

***EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

In the name of God,

**We send you forth with Word and Sacrament to our homebound,
that they may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.
We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread,
one cup in Christ Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING***BLESSING**

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG**

"For All the Saints"

**ELW #422
Stanzas 1-5**

***DISMISSAL**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Rita Augsburger
Assisting Minister	Isaac Ford
Coordinator of Music and Technology/Organist/Handbells	Rick Strine
Choir Director	Sarah Boline
Technical Director	Jeremy Hahn
Audio/Visual	Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Bill Fitzgerrel
Greeters	Gary & Nora Beck
Check-In	Carol Broeking & Pat Dalen
Communion Aide	Gary Beck
Money Counters	Bob & Judy Carney, Mike Corley
Acolyte	Knox Kendall
Flowers	Kelly Higgins in Memory of Donna Higgins

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

Announcements

1. Today is All Saints Sunday where we commemorate those we have lost.
2. The AMELCA Team served 37 clients on Wednesday, November 1st.
3. 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.
4. Toys for Tots donation boxes will be in the Narthex from November through early December.
5. The FELC/HC Dream Big Retreat is Saturday November 11th from 9am-12pm at Millikin's Alumni House. Please contact Kay in the office or Molly Berry if you are attending. All are invited to share in the discussion.
6. Watch for AMELCA fund-raiser November 19th & December 10th at Son-Rise Café. Our Youth will be selling cookie jar mixes and there will be a bake sale. Please see Nancy Salefski to donate a bakery item.
7. St. John's Lutheran Church has their Living Nativity again this year November 18-19. Walk-thru is 4:30pm-5:30pm and Drive-thru is 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Let us Prepare our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews and Family, Mary Ellen & Tom Burns, Debra Jones,
Jan Lawson, Carolyn Renton, family of Ryan Snyder, 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.*

UPCOMING DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

MEET, EAT & GREET
(MEG)

Upcoming MEG Luncheons
Thursday's at Noon

November 9
December 14



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.



This Christmas season is the 76th Anniversary of the Marine Corps Reserve's "Toys for Tots" program. Here in Macon County this outreach is now coordinated with Dove and WAND TV's "Day of Giving", and volunteers are always welcome to help sort and distribute the toys mid-December. While "Toys for Tots" donation boxes will be available throughout Decatur, this year First Lutheran will have a box at our lower entrance and a box in our narthex during November and early December. See Bob Tyler for additional information. *Semper fidelis* – Bob Tyler



All Saints List

Judy Leschewski 11.13.2022

Dante Berry 10.12.2022

Al Weidlich 01.13.2023

Dave Gendry 03.23.2023

Ann Haab 03.24.2023

David Fyke 04.15.2023

Phyllis Johnson 04.27.2023

Bill Blackburn 05.12.2023

Bob Cox 05.21.2023

Vern Torrens 06.23.2023

Ellen Snowden 09.01.2023

Candle for all those others we hold in our hearts.