

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 12, 2023, at 9:30 am

HOLY COMMUNION

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,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation.
Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.
Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

"Come, We That Love the Lord"

ELW #625

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.**

***KYRIE**

ELW p. 138

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Glory to God"

ELW p. 139-140

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING:

AMOS 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

PSALM 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;

O LORD, make | haste to help me.

²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced.

³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat | over me

turn back because | of their shame.

⁴Let all who seek you rejoice and be ¹glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great ¹is the LORD!”
⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- ¹ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, ¹do not tarry.

SECOND READING:

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

ELW p. 142

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL READING:**

MATTHEW 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Questions to consider as you hear the gospel reading (Matthew 25:1-13):

1. Who are you most like in this parable?
2. What do you make of the wise virgins' refusal to share their oil?
3. What are two key points Jesus wants the listeners to know about his future return?
4. How does it make you feel to know the door to the kingdom gets closed for some?

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

ELW #488

APOSTLES CREED

ELW p. 105

*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: O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth.

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

A: O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living.

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

A: O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community and all nations, that they are supported and loved.

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

A: O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day.

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

A: O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation.

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

A: O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve.

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 them 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;
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. 144

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 145 (right side)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

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. 146

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray,

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet.

**Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.**

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**

"Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand"

ELW #441

***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 Augsburg
Assisting Minister	Molly Berry
Coordinator of Music and Technology/Organist/Handbells	Rick Strine
Choir Director	Sarah Boline
Technical Director	Jeremy Hahn
Audio/Visual	Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Kris Sites
Greeters	Brian Reynolds & Karen Reynolds
Check-In	Carol Broeking & Pat Dalen
Communion Aide	Bill Fitzgerrel
Money Counters	Bob & Judy Carney, Mike Corley
Acolyte	Aurora Romine
Flowers	Lee Flower Memorial in Memory of Hortense Ott Lee

Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews and Family, Tyson Binion, 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.*

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

Announcements

1. The AMELCA Team served 53 clients on Wednesday, November 8th.
2. The Opus 24 concert is Sunday, November 19th at 3:00pm at Central Christian Church. 3 of our members, Rick Strine, Terry & Christina Shields, sing in the group.
3. Baby Jesus donations will be collected until December 18th.
4. Toys for Tots donation boxes will be in the Narthex from November through early December.
5. AMELCA Son-Rise Café fund-raisers will be November 19th & December 10th. Our Youth will be selling cookie jar mixes and there will be a bake sale. Please see Nancy Salefski to donate a bakery item.
6. 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.
7. Join Pastor Rita for Advent Study Wednesday afternoons 12:15-1:15pm. The group will meet November 29, December 6, 13 & 20th. Contact the office or Pastor Rita if you are interested in an evening meeting via zoom.
8. Pastor Rita is starting a new Grief Group beginning November 20th. They will meet in the lounge from 11:00am-12:30pm.
9. The church office will be closed Thursday, November 23rd and Friday November 24 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

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

- December 14
- January 11
- February 8
- March 14
- April 11



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



Baby Jesus donations of diapers, onesies, receiving blankets, etc. can be placed in the box in the Narthex. Donations will be collected from now through December 18th. Please see Jane Cade with questions.



Please join us for Advent Study Wednesdays 12:15-1:15 pm on:
November 29, December 6, 13 & 20
Contact Kay in the office or Pastor Rita if you are interested in an evening meeting via zoom.



Pastor Rita is forming a NEW SMALL GRIEF GROUP. They will meet on Mondays from 11:00am-12:30pm in the lounge on the following dates:

- Nov. 20
- Dec. 4 & 18
- More dates to follow for 2024

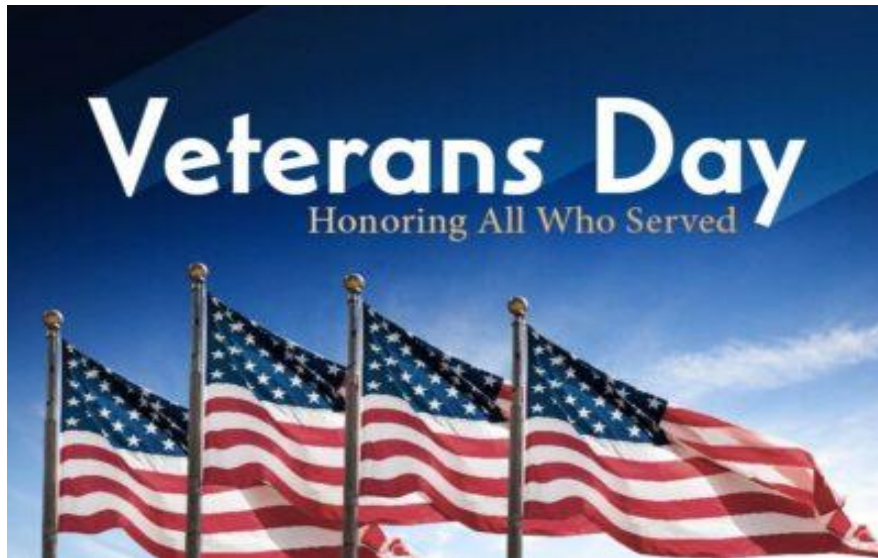


Help us Build 3 Thanksgiving Food Baskets for AMELCA.

“Friends of AMELCA” are getting together again this year by gathering the 21 items listed below for EACH Thanksgiving Food Basket. AMELCA volunteers will be here at FELC to receive deliveries of these baskets on Monday the 20th (1pm-6pm) and Tuesday the 21st (11am-4pm). It would be wonderful for members of FELC to build 3 (or more) Thanksgiving food baskets for AMELCA. That means that we need 3 of each of the 21 items listed below. Please bring your item(s) by Tuesday, November 21 so we can hand out

these baskets to our AMELCA clients. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Contact Kay in the office with questions.

1. HAM (4LB)
2. BOX OF CEREAL
3. BOX OF STUFFING MIX
4. BOX OF POTATOES
5. BOX OF MAC 'N CHEESE
6. CAN OF FRUIT
7. CAN OF TOMATOES
8. CAN OF TUNA
9. BOX OF DESSERT MIX
10. CAN OF SWEET POTATOES
11. CAN OF CRANBERRY SAUCE
12. CAN OF BEANS
13. BOX OF CRACKERS
14. BAG OF RICE
15. BOX OF OATMEAL
16. BOX OF PASTA
17. JAR OF SPAGHETTI SAUCE
18. CAN CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP
19. CAN OF CORN
20. CAN OF GREEN BEANS
21. CAN OF TOMATO SOUP



A Prayer for Veterans - Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. Hear us, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

