

# **First Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**250 W. Decatur St.**

**Decatur, Illinois**

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*We have a livestream option on our website!*

**<https://felcdecatur.org/live>**



**November 19, 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**

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

**ELW #840**

#### **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,

**Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING:**

### **ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18**

*Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.*

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
“The LORD will not do good,  
nor will he do harm.”

<sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;

because they have sinned against the LORD,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.  
<sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the LORD's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

## PSALM 90:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have <sup>1</sup> been our refuge  
from one generation <sup>1</sup> to another.  
<sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the <sup>1</sup> earth were born,  
from age to age <sup>1</sup> you are God.**  
<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the <sup>1</sup> dust and say,  
“Turn back, O child- <sup>1</sup> ren of earth.”  
<sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when <sup>1</sup> it is past  
and like a watch <sup>1</sup> in the night;**  
<sup>5</sup>you sweep them away <sup>1</sup> like a dream,  
they fade away suddenly <sup>1</sup> like the grass:  
<sup>6</sup>**in the morning it is <sup>1</sup> green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried <sup>1</sup> up and withered.**  
<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed <sup>1</sup> by your anger;  
we are afraid because <sup>1</sup> of your wrath.  
<sup>8</sup>**Our iniquities you have <sup>1</sup> set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light <sup>1</sup> of your countenance.**  
<sup>9</sup>When you are angry, all our <sup>1</sup> days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end <sup>1</sup> like a sigh.  
<sup>10</sup>**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength <sup>1</sup> even eighty;  
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and <sup>1</sup> we are  
gone.**  
<sup>11</sup>Who regards the power <sup>1</sup> of your wrath?  
Who rightly fears your <sup>1</sup> indignation?  
<sup>12</sup>**So teach us to num- <sup>1</sup> ber our days  
that we may apply our <sup>1</sup> hearts to wisdom.**

**SECOND READING:****1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11**

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

**ELW p. 142**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*GOSPEL READING:****MATTHEW 25:14-30**

*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have

what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’ <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”*

**ELW #678**

## **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: Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor.

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

A: You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth’s resources.

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

A: You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice.

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

A: You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you.

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

A: We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another.

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

A: Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness.  
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**

*"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

**ELW #815**

### **\*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	Janice Isaacs
Coordinator of Music and Technology/Organist/Handbells	Rick Strine
Choir Director	Sarah Boline
Technical Director	Jeremy Hahn
Audio/Visual	Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Mike Reynolds
Greeters	Tracy Oliver & Karen Reynolds
Check-In	Carol Broeking & Pat Dalen
Communion Aide	Mike Reynolds
Money Counters	Bob & Judy Carney, Mike Corley
Acolyte	Leighton Oliver
Flowers	Gary & Nora Beck in Memory of their Daughter
Son-Rise Café	Nancy Salefski & Judy Carney – Fundraiser for AMELCA

## Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews and Family, Tyson Binion, Mary Ellen & Tom Burns,  
Debra Jones, Jan Lawson, Doris Oliver, Carolyn Renton,  
family of Ryan Snyder, Patty & Ken Tague, 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. Please stay after Worship for Son Rise Café today. Your contributions will go to AMELCA. The next AMELCA Son-Rise Café fund-raiser will be December 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. The AMELCA Team served 60 clients on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. Please see the Suggestion/Question Box on the Greeters Table in the Narthex. We need your Suggestions for 2024 Goals and Welcome your questions about shared ministry. Forms are located on the side pocket of the box. Including your name is optional, however, it's helpful for follow-up.
4. The Opus 24 concert is this afternoon at 3:00pm at Central Christian Church. 3 of our members, Rick Strine, Terry & Christina Shields, sing in the group.
5. St. John's Lutheran Church has their Living Nativity today. Walk-thru is 4:30pm-5:30pm and Drive-thru is 6:00pm-8:00pm.
6. The new Grief Group will meet tomorrow, November 20<sup>th</sup> from 11am-12:30pm in the Lounge.
7. Baby Jesus donations will be collected until December 18<sup>th</sup>.
8. Toys for Tots donation boxes will be in the Narthex from November through early December.
9. Join Pastor Rita for Advent Study Wednesday afternoons 12:15-1:15pm. The group will meet November 29, December 6, 13 & 20<sup>th</sup>. Contact the office or Pastor Rita if you are interested in an evening meeting via zoom.
10. The church office will be closed Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday November 24 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.
11. Poinsettia order forms are in the Narthex. Please submit your form by Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and all Poinsettia deliveries should be on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9am-3pm. Contact Kay in the office with any questions.
12. Homebound cookie delivery and caroling with our Homebound will be December 10<sup>th</sup>. Carolers will meet at the church at 1:00pm to pickup cookies and route instructions. All singers and non-singers are welcome to join in and brighten the season for our Homebound.

**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      May 9



ADVENT "BARN  
PAINT" RETREAT

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00am-12:00pm**

### FELC Fellowship Hall

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).



This Christmas season is the 76<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>. Please see Jane Cade with questions.



**ATTENTION COOKIE BAKERS & CAROLERS.** Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup> is the date for cookie delivery and caroling to our Homebound. Cookies will be packaged on that Sunday at 9:30am. Bring your homemade cookies marked "FOR CAROLING" to the kitchen on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday from 9:00am-4:00pm during the week of December 3<sup>rd</sup> or by 9:30am on Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Carolers will meet at church at 1:00pm to pickup cookies and route instructions. Following our caroling, we will have an opportunity for socializing. All singers and non-singers are welcome to join in and brighten the season for our Homebound.



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



Poinsettia order forms are in the Narthex. Please submit your completed form by Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please arrange for your Poinsettia to be delivered on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9am-3pm.



***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.