

# **First Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**250 W. Decatur St.**

**Decatur, Illinois**

**(217) 423-7783**

**Website: [www.felcdecatur.org](http://www.felcdecatur.org)**

**Email: [felc\\_decatur@outlook.com](mailto:felc_decatur@outlook.com)**

*We have a livestream option on our website!*

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



**December 10, 2023, at 9:30 am**  
**HOLY COMMUNION**

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

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given ... and his name shall be called Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **PRELUDE**

## **GATHERING**

**\*GATHERING SONG**      *“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”*

**ELW #242**

## **INVOCATION & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*(Two purple candles are lit on the Advent wreath.)*

**P:** Today we light the second candle on the Advent wreath, the candle of peace. We may be afraid at times, because we live in a world filled with violence. We may become caught up in personal struggles and family quarrels. We need the peace that only Jesus can bring.

**C: Lord, grant us your peace.**

**P:** The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of the promised Messiah, the child who would be called the Prince of Peace. He would rule over all things, and there would be no end to his kingdom of peace.

**C: Lord, grant us your peace.**

**P:** Jesus was born to bring us peace, the peace that comes through the forgiveness of our sins, peace that the world can never give, peace that Jesus alone brings.

**C: Lord, grant us your peace.**

**P:** Let us confess our sins to God and ask him to have mercy on us.

**C: Almighty God, even though you grant us your peace, we often destroy that peace by causing strife. We quarrel with others and condemn them. We pursue our own selfish interests instead of showing love to others. We turn away from the guidance of your holy Word. Have mercy on us, forgive our sins and grant us your peace.**

**P:** God sent his Son, the Prince of Peace, to be our Savior. Jesus shed his precious, innocent blood, suffering the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C:** Jesus, Prince of Peace, rule in our hearts with the peace that you alone can bring.

**HYMN OF RESPONSE:**                   *“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”*

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.**

**The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.**

**Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray,

**C:** Almighty God, when the time was right, you fulfilled your promise and sent your Son to be our Savior. Even his holy name—Jesus—means that he came to save his people from their sins. Through faith in our crucified and risen Lord, we have forgiveness for our sins and the gift of eternal life. We are buried with him in baptism and raised to walk with him in newness of life. Help us, in that new life, to walk in love as Jesus did and to serve you by serving others. When we grow faint and weary in our walk of faith, lift us up and renew our strength in the power of the Holy Spirit. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**WORD**

**FIRST READING:**

**ISAIAH 9:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING:**

## **COLOSSIANS 1:13-20**

<sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers — all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

### **Gospel Acclamation**



The holy gospel according to John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*GOSPEL READING:**

**JOHN 14:25-27**

<sup>25</sup>I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

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

**YOUTH MESSAGE**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Away in a Manger”*

**ELW #277**

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Text: North American, 19th cent.

**APOSTLES CREED**

**ELW p. 105**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Lord Jesus, your birth was foretold by the prophet Isaiah. You would be called the Prince of Peace, and your kingdom of peace would endure forever. You were born among us, and by your death and resurrection, you have brought us peace. By God’s grace, through faith in your name, we have peace with God, peace with one another and peace in our own lives.

Jesus, Prince of Peace,

**C: Fill our hearts with the peace that you alone can bring.**

A: Lord Jesus, the angels announced that through your birth there would be peace on earth. That peace was bought through the blood you shed on the cross. Your peace is not like the world's peace, which can so easily be lost. Your peace is found only in you.

Jesus, Prince of Peace,

**C: Fill our hearts with the peace that you alone can bring.**

P: Lord Jesus, we pray for those who are not experiencing peace as we celebrate your birth. Comfort those who are suffering from illness, loneliness, grief and other hardships. Encourage them through the promises of your holy Word. According to your gracious will, bring help and healing to them. Fill them with joy in knowing that you came to be their Savior and that you will never leave them.

Jesus, Prince of Peace,

**C: Fill our hearts with the peace that you alone can bring.**

A: Lord Jesus, lead us by your Spirit to serve people who are in need. Help us to walk in love as you did and to treat others with care, compassion and kindness. We pray that our words of witness for you will be supported by our acts of love.

Jesus, Prince of Peace,

**C: Fill our hearts with the peace that you alone can bring.**

P: Lord Jesus, the seasons of Advent and Christmas are celebrated as seasons of peace on earth. We pray that, by the power of your Spirit, that peace would extend into the new year and beyond. Let our lives reflect your love and peace to everyone we meet as we share the Good News of salvation through faith in your name.

Jesus, Prince of Peace.

**C: Fill our hearts with the peace that you alone can bring. Amen.**

**\* PEACE**

### **MEAL**

**OFFERING**

*"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"*

**ELW #256**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Let us pray,

**C: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.**

**Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**ELW p. 145 (right side)**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.  
Come, take your place at the 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**

#### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### **SENDING**

#### **\*BLESSING**

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

**C: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

**C: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

P: Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

**C: Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG**

*“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

**ELW #859**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Liturgy from Evangelical Lutheran Worship copyright © 2006. All Rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress

Lectionary - Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress.  
Permission is granted for congregations to reproduce copies for local use only and this copyright notice appears.

All reprints used by permission© John Ylvisaker, Box 321, Waverly, IA 50677  
CCLI License # 2368672 | One License #A-734658

© 2023 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414.  
[www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com). All rights reserved. Purchase of this kit gives the purchaser the copyright release to use the material in any format for use in worship, including livestream.



## Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews and Family, Tyson Binion, Mary Ellen & Tom Burns,  
Debra Jones, Jan Lawson, Doris Oliver, Carolyn Renton, family of Ryan Snyder,  
family of Glen Sweitzer, 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.*

## Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Rita Augsburger
Assisting Minister	Lucas Reynolds
Coordinator of Music and Technology/Organist/Handbells	Rick Strine
Choir Director	Sarah Boline
Technical Director	Jeremy Hahn
Audio/Visual	Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Larry Osborne
Greeters	Mike & Karen Reynolds
Check-In	Judy & Bob Carney
Communion Aide	Larry Osborne
Money Counters	The Wengers & The Broekings
Acolyte	Hailey Hahn
Son-Rise Café	Judy & Bob Carney, Peg Allgeier, Patricia Cox – AMELCA Fundraiser

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

## *Announcements*

1. Please stay after worship for Son-Rise Café & bake sale in the fellowship hall. All proceeds go to AMELCA.
2. The AMELCA Team served 50 clients on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.
3. Poinsettia forms are due to the office today. Poinsettia deliveries should be on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9am-3pm. Contact Kay in the office with any questions.
4. Homebound cookie delivery and caroling is today!! 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.
5. Advent Study is this Wednesday from 12:15-1:15pm. Upcoming meeting dates are December 13 & 20<sup>th</sup>.
6. Meet, Eat & Greet lunch is Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. Please sign up to bring a side dish or dessert. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. All are Welcome!
7. Please see the Suggestion/Question Box 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.
8. Baby Jesus donations will be collected until December 18<sup>th</sup>.
9. Toys for Tots donation boxes will be in the Narthex through mid December.
10. Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve) Worship Service is 4:30pm. There will not be a 9:30am morning service.

**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



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 through 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:  
December 13 & 20.***



Please submit your completed Poinsettia form by today, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please arrange for your Poinsettia to be delivered on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9am-3pm.



**ATTENTION CAROLERS!!** Today, December 10<sup>th</sup> is the date for cookie delivery and caroling to our Homebound. Cookies were packaged this morning and are ready for delivery.



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.



THE GRIEF GROUP will meet on Mondays from  
11:00am-12:30pm in the lounge on the  
following dates:

- Dec 18
- Jan 8, 15, 29
- Feb 12, 26
- Mar 11, 25
- April 8, 22