

# **First Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**250 W. Decatur St.**

**Decatur, Illinois**

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

*We have a livestream option on our website!*

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



**January 14, 2024, 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,  
the Word made flesh, our life, and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,  
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**

**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**

**Renew us with your grace  
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In † Jesus you are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

#### **\*GATHERING SONG**

*"Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"*

**ELW #520**

#### **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,

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**WORD**

**FIRST READING:**

**1 SAMUEL 3:1-20**

*At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the LORD comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The LORD called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” <sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

<sup>15</sup>Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup>But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” <sup>17</sup>Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” <sup>18</sup>So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”

<sup>19</sup>As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.  
<sup>20</sup>And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18 (Sung - please see insert)**

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you have | searched me out;  
O LORD, you | have known me.  
<sup>2</sup>**You know my sitting down and my | rising up;  
you discern my thoughts | from afar.**  
<sup>3</sup>You trace my journeys and my | resting-places  
and are acquainted with | all my ways.  
<sup>4</sup>**Indeed, there is not a word | on my lips,  
but you, O LORD, know it | altogether.**  
<sup>5</sup>You encompass me, behind | and before,  
and lay your | hand upon me.  
<sup>6</sup>**Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot at- | tain to it.**  
<sup>13</sup>For you yourself created my | inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my | mother's womb.  
<sup>14</sup>**I will thank you because I am mar- | velously made;  
your works are wonderful, and I | know it well.**  
<sup>15</sup>My body was not hid- | den from you,  
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths | of the earth.  
<sup>16</sup>**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written | in  
your book;  
my days were fashioned before they | came to be.**  
<sup>17</sup>How deep I find your | thoughts, O God!  
How great is the | sum of them!  
<sup>18</sup>**If I were to count them, they would be more in number | than the sand;  
to count them all, my life span would need to | be like yours.**

**SECOND READING:**

**1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20**

*Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.*

<sup>12</sup>“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that

whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

**ELW p. 142**

The holy gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*GOSPEL READING:**

**JOHN 1:43-51**

*In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."*

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“O Jesus, I Have Promised”*

**ELW #810**

**APOSTLES CREED**

**ELW p. 105**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities.

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

A: Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disasters. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them.

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

A: Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society.

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

A: Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration. We lift to you Matt and Family, Whitley, friends & family of Tom, Mary Ellen & Tom, Debra, Jan, Barbara, Doris, Sandy, family of Ryan, Hailey, Rick , Patty & Ken, Anna, and those others we name in our hearts (pause)...

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

A: Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care.

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

A: God of mercy, we ask that you make your presence known to our sister congregation, Holy Cross, as they seek to find an interim pastor. Direct their steps and lead them in the way of your will.

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

A: Trusting God who raised Jesus and will also raise us in spirit and truth, we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints.

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

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**\* PEACE**

## MEAL

### **OFFERING**

*(We thank you for your time, talent, and money toward ministry at FELC and beyond. Please place your money donation in the offering basket at the back of church, or on-line, or by mail.)*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray,  
**Blessed are you, Holy One,**  
**for all good things come from you.**  
**In bread and cup you open heaven to us.**  
**Meet us at this table,**  
**that we receive what we seek**  
**and follow your Son, Jesus,**  
**in whose name we pray.**  
**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 leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
In the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son,  
And in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
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

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
Come and see.

*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,  
**Giver of every gift,  
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
Raise us to life by your power  
for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

## SENDING

## \*BLESSING

God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
✠ bless you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## \*SENDING SONG

*"Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak"*

**ELW #676**

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## \*POSTLUDE

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## Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews and Family, Whitley Blankenship,  
friends & family of Tom Brennan, Mary Ellen & Tom Burns, Debra Jones,  
Jan Lawson, Barbara Lemen, Doris Oliver, Sandy Pawsey, family of Ryan Snyder,  
Hailey Stark, Rick Strine, 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	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	Mike Reynolds
Greeters	Jackie Murphy & Jim Oettel
Check-In	Donna Donahue & Jean Mikels
Communion Aide	Jane Cade
Money Counters	Judy & Bob Carney and Mike Corley
Acolyte	Emmy Murphy
Flowers	Molly Berry in Honor of Finnick's birthday

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

### *Announcements*

1. There will not be Adult Ed after Worship this morning. Terry Shields will resume class on Sunday, 1/21. Also, there will not be Adult Ed on 1/28 due to the Annual Congregation Meeting.
2. The AMELCA Team served 41 clients on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.
3. Youth Faith Formation Bulletin Board is meeting after Worship this morning.
4. Art Workshop will start up again on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm-2:30pm in the fellowship hall. Please contact Kay or Pastor Rita to sign-up.
5. Church History Class is being offered at no charge. Classes are on Saturdays beginning January 20<sup>th</sup> via zoom from 9:00am-12:00pm. See more details on the back side of the bulletin.
6. Annual Congregational Meeting will be January 28<sup>th</sup> following Worship Service.
7. Please support the FELC Youth in their “Souper Bowl” food drive/fundraiser for our AMELCA Food Pantry. See the back of the bulletin for more information.
8. The next Grief Group meeting is Monday January 29<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am-12:30pm in the Lounge.
9. The Laity Listening Session for church members of Central/Southern Illinois Synod will be February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. This session will give you an opportunity to share your experiences with the Church in all three expressions (congregations, synods, churchwide) – both your struggles and your joys, as well as the places you have experienced the movement of the Holy Spirit, and your hopes for the church in the future. The zoom link: <https://wartburgseminary.zoom.us/j/7221406601?pwd=bOJtkH8pbsbDW04JHqSncvkSNk7AWp.1>
10. Altar Guild Meeting/Luncheon will be February 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am for current Altar Guild members as well as anyone interested in learning more about serving on FELC’s Altar Guild. See additional details on the following page.
11. And before you know it, Lent will be here. Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have Worship Services at 12:15pm and at 6:00pm.
12. 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.

**Let us Prepare our Hearts and Minds for Worship**

## UPCOMING DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

### MEET, EAT & GREET (MEG)

#### Upcoming MEG Luncheons Second Thursdays at Noon

*Feb. 8	*July 11
*Mar. 14	*Aug. 8
*Apr. 11	*Sept. 12
*May 9	*Oct. 10
*June 6	*Nov. 14



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

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



**ART WORKSHOP CLASSES** will be in the fellowship hall from 1:00pm-2:30pm the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month:

*January 18	*March 21	*May 16
*February 15	*April 18	

Please contact Kay in the office or Pastor Rita to sign up.



Please plan to attend the  
**Annual Congregation Meeting**  
on January 28, 2024.  
The meeting will be held after  
Worship Service.



A luncheon meeting for all Altar Guild members, and anyone interested in learning more about serving on FELC's Altar Guild, will be held on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Because a light lunch will be served, attendees are asked to confirm their attendance by contacting Carol Tyler via text at 217-620-1356 or email at [cityler5@msn.com](mailto:cityler5@msn.com). Those attending are also asked to bring their own beverage of choice. Please note, in case of inclement weather, Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> is the back-up date.

A course offering of the Faith Formation Committee  
of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod – ELCA

## Church History Survey

Saturdays Online via ZOOM 9:00 AM to Noon

January 20 & 27

February 10 & 24

March 9 & 23

There is no cost for this class thanks to a generous gift  
from a congregation in our synod.

### Course Description:

As with any history course, this course will be looking at events that have shaped the world in which we now live. Specifically, the events that have shaped the Church as we know it today. The course will take us on a journey through time where we will discover both the triumphs and mistakes which will provide us the opportunity to learn their impact on the Church itself.

Below is the link to register for this class.

[Adult Faith Formation: Church History Survey - Central/Southern Illinois Synod \(csis-elca.org\)](https://csis-elca.org)

### Souper Bowl for AMELCA

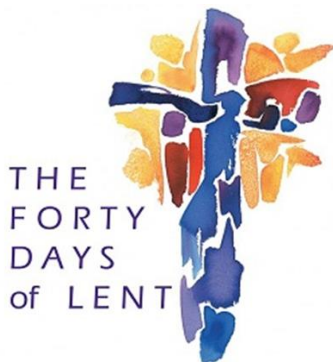
FELC Youth will be sponsoring a “Souper Bowl” food drive/fundraiser to help support our AMELCA Food Pantry. There will be tubs in the narthex starting Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> for your donations. Beginning on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, we will also have “Soup Mixes in a Jar” available for purchase. If you have supported our “Cookies in a Jar” fundraiser and have an extra jar at home, please consider returning it and we will reuse it for this current fundraiser. As always we appreciate your support. – Peg Allgeier



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
First Day of Lent



Please mark February 14, 2024 on your calendar to attend **Ash Wednesday**  
**Worship Services at 12:15pm and 6:00pm.**



- Ash Wednesday - February 14 - 12:15pm & 6:00pm
- Mid-Week Lenten Study Wednesdays 12:15pm - 1:15pm
  - February 21 & 28
  - March 6, 13 & 20
- Palm Sunday - March 24 - 9:30am
- Maundy Thursday - March 28 - 6:00pm
- Good Friday - March 29 - 6:00pm
- Easter - March 31 - 9:30am