

# **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 21, 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,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you.**  
**We have known you but have not always loved you.**  
**We have wounded one another**  
**and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit**  
**dwelling in each of us.**

**Remember your covenant.**

**Renew your creation.**

**Restore us,**  
**that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

**Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of † Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

**Amen.**

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

*"Shout to the Lord"*

**ELW #821**

#### **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, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD**

**FIRST READING:**

**JONAH 3:1-5, 10**

*The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah’s dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question “On whom should God have mercy?”*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** (will be sung by Molly Berry)

**PSALM 62:5-12**

<sup>5</sup>For God alone I <sup>1</sup> wait in silence;  
truly, my hope <sup>1</sup> is in God.

<sup>6</sup>**God alone is my rock and <sup>1</sup> my salvation,  
my stronghold, so that I shall nev- <sup>1</sup> er be shaken.**

<sup>7</sup>In God is my deliverance <sup>1</sup> and my honor;  
God is my strong rock <sup>1</sup> and my refuge.

<sup>8</sup>**Put your trust in God al- <sup>1</sup> ways, O people,  
pour out your hearts before the one who <sup>1</sup> is our refuge.**

<sup>9</sup>Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate can- <sup>1</sup> not be trusted.  
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less <sup>1</sup> than a breath.

<sup>10</sup>**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no <sup>1</sup> empty pride;  
though wealth increase, set not your <sup>1</sup> heart upon it.**

<sup>11</sup>God has spoken once, twice <sup>1</sup> have I heard it,  
that power be- <sup>1</sup> longs to God.

<sup>12</sup>**Steadfast love belongs to <sup>1</sup> you, O Lord,  
for you repay all according <sup>1</sup> to their deeds.**

**SECOND READING:****1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31**

*Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>29</sup>Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, <sup>31</sup>and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)****ELW p. 142**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*GOSPEL READING:****MARK 1:14-20**

*Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.*

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON****\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"Will You Come and Follow Me"*

**ELW #798****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: God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries.

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

A: God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them.

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

A: God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth.

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

A: God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain. We lift to you Matt and Family, Whitley, friends & family of Tom, Mary Ellen & Tom, Debra, Jan, Barbara, Doris, Braden, Sandy, family of Ryan, Hailey, Rick, Patty & Ken, Marie, Anna, and those others we name in our hearts (pause)...

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

A: God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us.

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

A: God of guidance, please lead Holy Cross Lutheran Church in search of a new minister and grant it's leadership faith, wisdom and unity throughout the process.

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

A: God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation.

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**

*"Go, Make Disciples"*

**ELW #540**

### **\*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, Braden Paulson, Sandy Pawsey, family of Ryan Snyder, Hailey Stark, Rick Strine, Patty & Ken Tague, Marie Van Cura (Pr. Rita's niece), 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 Christine McNeal
Assisting Minister	Molly Berry
Coordinator of Music and Technology/Organist/Handbells	Rick Strine
Choir Director	Sarah Boline
Band	Milt Scott, Carla Scott, Matt Phillips, Laura Phillips, Rick Strine
Technical Director	Jeremy Hahn
Audio/Visual	Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Mike Reynolds
Greeters	Cheryl Wallace & Dick Donahue
Check-In	Donna Donahue & Jean Mikels
Communion Aide	Bill Fitzgerrel
Money Counters	Judy & Bob Carney and Mike Corley
Acolyte	Ella Taute
Flowers	Donated by Svendsen's Florist

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

## *Announcements*

1. There will be Adult Ed after Worship Service today. There will not be Adult Ed next Sunday, 1/28, due to the Annual Congregation Meeting.
2. The AMELCA Team served 47 clients on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.
3. Youth Faith Formation is meeting after Worship this morning.
4. Annual Congregational Meeting will be January 28<sup>th</sup> following Worship Service.
5. 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.
6. The next Grief Group meeting is Monday January 29<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am-12:30pm in the Lounge.
7. 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>
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Please do not turn off any of the thermostats in the Narthex area. Contact Mike Reynolds if you feel an adjustment is necessary.

**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:

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

Please contact 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.

### **Souper Bowl for AMELCA**

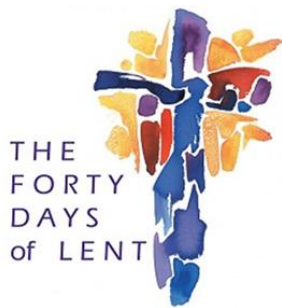
FELC Youth will be sponsoring a "Souper Bowl" food drive/fundraiser to help support our AMELCA Food Pantry. There will be tubs in the narthex starting Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> for your donations. Beginning on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, we will also have "Soup Mixes in a Jar" available for 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**



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 [cjtyler5@msn.com](mailto:cjtyler5@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.