

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>



February 4, 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

"We Come to You for Healing, Lord"

ELW #617

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,

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING:

ISAIAH 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

PSALM 147:1-11, 20C

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises ¹ to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor ¹ God with praise!
²**The LORD re- ¹ builds Jerusalem,
and gathers the ex- ¹ iles of Israel.**
³The LORD heals the ¹ brokenhearted
and binds ¹ up their wounds.
⁴**The LORD counts the number ¹ of the stars
and calls them all ¹ by their names.**
⁵Great is our LORD and might- ¹ y in power;
there is no limit ¹ to God's wisdom.
⁶**The LORD lifts ¹ up the lowly,
but casts the wicked ¹ to the ground.**
⁷Sing to the LORD ¹ with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp ¹ to our God,
⁸**who covers the heav- ¹ ens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up- ¹ on the mountains.**
⁹God provides food ¹ for the cattle
and for the young ravens ¹ when they cry.
¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might ¹ of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed ¹ of a runner,**
¹¹but finds pleasure in those who ¹ fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c1} Hallelujah!

SECOND READING:

1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

ELW p. 142

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL:

MARK 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

INSTALLATION*(Council members are invited to come to front of church)*

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership:

2024 FELC Council Members:

- Marty Brilley
- Jane Cade
- Bruce Cannon – Vice President
- Carol Dellert
- Bill Fitzgerrel
- Jeremy Hahn
- Janice Isaacs
- Susan Martin - Secretary
- Larry Osborne – President
- Cindy Reedy
- Marsha Thornhill
- Molly Berry – Treasurer (non-voting member)
- Mason Oliver – Youth (non-voting member)

We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

A reading from First Corinthians: **There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**

(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

- You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.
- You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.
- You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.
- You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.
- You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. Pastor Rita addresses the assembly.

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

Response: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face Pastor Rita, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

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: Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world.

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

A: Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made.

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

A: God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding.

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

A: God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need. We lift to you Matt and family, Whitley, friends & family of Tom, family of Dorothy, Mary Ellen & Tom, Dale, Debra, Jan, Barbara, Doris, Braden, Sandy, family of Ryan, Hailey, Rick, Patty & Ken, Judy, Marie and those others we name in our hearts (pause)...

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

A: God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own.

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

A: God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised 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.

***EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

P: In the name of God:

We send you forth with Word and Sacrament to our homebound,

that they may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread,

one cup in Christ Jesus, Our Lord. 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.

***DISMISSAL**

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

***POSTLUDE**

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Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Rita Augsburger
Assisting Minister	Karen Wenger
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	Marilyn Oftedal & Larry Osborne
Check-In	Mary Jo Rowley & Kris Sites
Communion Aide	Kris Sites
Money Counters	Bob Tyler & Gary Beck
Acolyte	Ella Taute
Flowers	Donated by Svendsen’s Florist

Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews and family, Whitley Blankenship, friends & family of Tom Brennan,
family of Dorothy Burgener, Mary Ellen & Tom Burns, Dale Howard, Debra Jones,
Jan Lawson, Barbara Lemen, Doris Oliver, Braden Paulson, Sandy Pawsey,
family of Ryan Snyder, Hailey Stark, Rick Strine, Patty & Ken Tague,
Judy Thompson, Marie Van Cura (Pr. Rita’s niece)

*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. Council Members will be installed today after the Hymn of the Day, *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*.
2. Today is another FELC Youth "Souper Bowl" Sunday! Our youth are sponsoring a food drive/fundraiser for AMELCA Food Pantry. See the back of the bulletin for more information.
3. Join us for Meet, Eat and Greet (MEG) on Thursday, February 8th for Soup & Sliders! Please bring a side dish or dessert. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.
4. February 8th meetings: 3:30p Exec Board; 4:30p Finance Committee
5. The AMELCA Team served 59 clients on Wednesday, January 31st
6. The Laity Listening Session for church members of Central/Southern Illinois Synod will be February 5th 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>
7. Altar Guild Meeting/Luncheon is Saturday, February 10th 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.
8. The next Grief Group meeting is Monday February 12th from 11:00am-12:30pm.
9. Ash Wednesday is February 14th. We will have Worship Services at 12:15pm and at 6:00pm. Please see the bulletin for the full Lent schedule.

Let us Prepare our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Souper Bowl for AMELCA

FELC Youth will be sponsoring a "Souper Bowl" food drive/fundraiser to help support our AMELCA Food Pantry. Sunday, February 4th, "Soup Mixes in a Jar" are 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



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:

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



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

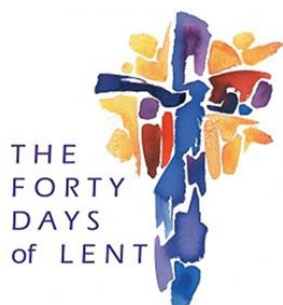
- *February 15
- *March 21
- *April 18
- *May 16

Please contact the office or Pastor Rita to sign up.

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