

# **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>*



## **THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

**March 31, 2024, at 9:30 am**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

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

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

### GATHERING

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.  
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.  
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.  
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.  
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.  
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.  
Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.  
We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

## **\*GREETING**

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.**

## **\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*“This is the Feast”*

**ELW p. 140-141**

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,

**God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead,  
for he is alive and has become the Lord of life.  
Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ,  
and help us to grow as your people  
toward the fullness of eternal life with you,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **First Reading: Acts 10:34-43**

*Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, so that God’s forgiveness in Jesus’ name would reach out to all people.*

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord.   **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel now declare,  
"God's mercy endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter."

<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

*The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the

apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The Word of the Lord.      **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*“Alleluia”*

**ELW p. 142**

The holy gospel according to Mark the 16<sup>th</sup> Chapter.      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Mark 16:1-8**

*The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.*

<sup>1</sup>When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus’ body]. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”*

**ELW #364**

**\*NICENE CREED**

**ELW p. 104**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

A: Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ’s love in the world.

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

A: Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: Loving God, we pray for this community of faith and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death. Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.  
**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**

Risen One,  
**you call us to believe and bear fruit.**  
**May the gifts that we offer here**  
**be signs of your abiding love.**  
**Form us to be your witnesses in the world,**  
**through Jesus Christ, our true vine.**  
**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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,  
for the glorious resurrection  
of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb  
who gave himself to take away our sin,  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels,  
cherubim, and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**ELW p. 144**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**ELW p. 145**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's 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.*

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Shepherding God,  
**you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.  
Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”*

**ELW #367**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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## Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews & family, Whitley Blankenship, Mary Ellen & Tom Burns,  
Roger Lake, Jan Lawson, Alec Murphy, Sandy Pawsey, Rick Strine,  
Patty & Ken Tague, Marie Van Cura (Pr. Rita's niece), Milli Velek

*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	Jane Cade
Coordinator of Music and Technology/Organist/Handbells	Rick Strine
Choir Director	Sarah Boline
Technical Director	Jeremy Hahn
Audio/Visual	Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Bob Tyler
Acolyte	Leighton Oliver
Greeters	Bob & Carol Tyler
Check-In	Bob & Judy Carney
Communion Aide	Carol Tyler
Money Counters	The Wengers & The Broekings
Flowers	Bruce & Tami Cannon in Honor of their Anniversary

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

## *Announcements*

- The AMELCA Team served 61 clients on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The Red Sea Rules book study meeting is Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Please read the introduction and Chapters 1-3 prior to the first meeting. We will cover the study questions at the end of each Chapter, so jot down your comments & notes. Bring your calendars to discuss future meeting dates/times.
- Art Workshop classes have been scheduled for summer and fall. Please see the list of dates in the “Upcoming Dates” section of the bulletin. All are welcome!

### **This Week:**

- Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mutual Ministry meets at 4:30pm
- Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Choral Board of Directors meet at 5pm in the Lounge
- Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, Finance Committee meets at 4:00pm

**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

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| *Apr. 11 | *Sept 12 |
| *May 9   | *Oct 10  |
| *June 13 | *Nov. 14 |
| *July 11 | *Dec. 12 |
| *Aug. 8  |          |



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

- Mar 25
- April 8 & 22
- May 6 & 20
- June 3 & 17
- July 1 & 15
- Aug 5 & 26
- Sept 9 & 23
- Oct 14 & 28



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

- April 18
- May 16

#### Summer Schedule:

- June 20
- July 18
- Aug 15

#### Fall Schedule:

- Sept 19
- Oct 17
- Nov 21

Please contact the office or Pastor Rita to sign up.

## Easter Flowers

<i>Given By:</i>	<i>In Memory of:</i>
Wayne & Connie Banfield	Dean Banfield Ann Banfield Bill & Mary Jane Osborne Harry & Clara Banfield
Jane Cade	Dorothea & James Cade Lt. Col. Jim Cade
Bruce & Tami Cannon	Bill & Ginny Cannon Jack Clifton Sr.
Patricia Cox & Girls	Robert E. Cox William L. & Bertha A. Glore
Malachowski & Taute Family	Our Parents Our Grandparents
Larry, Nancy, Sam & Makenzie Osborne	To the Glory of God
Denise Troester	Spencer & Nancy Troester Cindy Shipley
Karen & Steve Wenger	Loved Ones