

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
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*We have a livestream option on our website!
<https://felcdecatur.org/live>*



**July 20, 2025, at 9:30 am
6th Sunday after Pentecost
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

**C: you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life. Amen.**

P: You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God’s children through faith.
In the cross of ✠ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING SONG** *“Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak”* **ELW #676**

GREETING **ELW p. 138**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also, with you.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE** *“This Is the Feast”* **ELW p. 122-123**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray,

C: **Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a

The LORD visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

¹ The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ^{10a} Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-28

*This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.”
Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.*

¹⁵ Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ 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.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him; ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its servant according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: The holy gospel according to Luke the 10th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

³⁸ Now as Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴² there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Jesus, the Very Thought of You”

ELW # 754

***APOSTLES' CREED**

ELW p. 105

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

A: Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen with eager longing for your words of life. Equip biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful discernment, that your word may be more fully known. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Every creature under heaven has been promised the hope of the gospel. From that promise, generate in humankind an eagerness to protect and care for creation. Bring healing to the earth with your words of life. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all who govern the nations of the world. May your word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Speak your word of comfort to any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or despair. Bring honor to any who experience slander and evil intent or are discredited by others. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Enliven and uphold all siblings in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Mary, Martha, and all the saints who attended to your word, we give thanks. Open our ears to your voice until that day when we realize the promise of the gospel with all creation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

***PEACE**

MEAL

OFFERING SONG

“Goodness Is Stronger than Evil”

ELW #721

(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 at <https://felcdecatur.org/give>, or by mail.)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Creator God,

**C: in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.**

**Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor, that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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.
Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
you pour out the fire of your Spirit,
uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.
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. 130

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 145

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

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. 135

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Mothering God,

**C: you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

SENDING

***BLESSING**

P: The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

“How Small Our Span of Life”

ELW #636

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit

C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Prayer Requests

Connie Andrews, Matt Andrews & Family, Dave Bachmann,
Peg Books, Brandon Ellison, Esther Gregory, Paul Kopetz, Jan Lawson,
Family of Jean Nihiser, Jarrod Renfro, Pastor Barbara Stroud-Borth,
Dennis Tangney, Mary Ann Stolley, Ken Stolley, Rick Strine, Rudy Zucker Sr.

*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 Knight Wells
Assisting Minister	Karen Wenger
Slides	Carol Broeking
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Interim Choir Director	Milt Scott
Technical Director	Mason Oliver
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Mike Reynolds
Greeter	Reynolds Family
Check-In	Rick Strine & Jayne Svendsen
Acolyte	Gemma Berry
Communion Aide	Susan Peters
Money Counters	Jim & Judy Oettel and Carolyn & Gary Likins

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

Announcements

- Welcome to **Pastor Knight Wells** who is preaching and presiding this morning.
- **Grief Group** meets Monday, July 21st at 11:00am in the Lounge.
- **Church Council** meets Monday, July 21st at 6:00pm in the Lounge.
- **The AMELCA** team served 91 clients on Wednesday, July 16th.
- **Exciting News!!!** FELC has signed an Interim agreement with Minister Claire Vail who will begin as Interim on September 1st. And Council has signed an agreement with Pastor Janet Lepp who will be Minister Claire's Supervising Pastor. Claire Vail will be preaching and presiding on August 3rd, so if you are attending worship service that Sunday, please introduce yourself and welcome her to our church family. Pastor Janet has served as Pulpit Supply here at FELC several times so most everyone is familiar with her. When Pastor Janet is here preaching on August 10th and 17th, please thank her for her service as Supervising Pastor. Please feel free to contact any Council Member with questions.
- **Meals on Wheels** volunteers are needed to deliver meals Monday, July 28th to Friday, August 1st. Please contact Judy Carney by Monday, July 21st if you are available; below is her contact information. Thank you for volunteering!
 - Home#: 217-429-0547
 - Cell#: 217-454-3901
 - Email: jcarney329@comcast.net
- The **Church office** will be closed on Friday, August 1st.

- The **Discover & Invite team** will be meeting in August to review the feedback received during our SonRise sessions. This feedback will be used to work toward completing our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) that will be submitted to Pastor Amy in the Synod office. If you have any questions, please see a Discover & Invite member (Chuck Ahlenius, Peg Allgeier, Molly Berry, Sheryl Brilley, Jeremy Hahn, John Malachowski).
- **New Book Study** is scheduled to begin September 15th at 12:15pm in the Lounge. The book we will be reading is “*The Mary We Forgot*” by Jennifer Powell McNutt. Please email (felc_decaturn@outlook.com) or call (217-423-7783) the church office if you would like to attend or want a copy of the book. Kay needs a count to know how many books to order. Thank you!
- **Son Rise Café** needs hosts & hostesses! Nothing elaborate is required – just the desire to extend a little fellowship. Some suggestions have been fruit, or cheese & crackers, baked goods, etc. There’s a new signup sheet on the bulletin board, so I hope you feel ‘nudged’ to sponsor a Sunday. Thank you for your contribution!
- We still have dates available for anyone that would want to sponsor **Altar Flowers** on a Sunday. The flower chart is hanging on the bulletin board.
- **August 31st is our next Joint Worship Service** with Holy Cross, held here at FELC. Pastor Amy Zietlow and Deacon Jason Fisher will be preaching & presiding. A big ‘Thank You’ to the Brilley’s and Kathy Scott for hosting SonRise on the 31st.

Let us Prepare our Hearts and Minds for Worship