

**JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**Holy Cross Lutheran Church &**  
**First Evangelical Lutheran Church**

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

Worship at 9:30 am



**First Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
250 W. Decatur St.  
Decatur, IL 62522  
217- 423-7783

Website: [www.felcdecatur.org](http://www.felcdecatur.org)

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

We have a livestream option on our website!

<https://felcdecatur.org/live>

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
3778 N. Water St.  
Decatur, IL 62526  
217-877-2258

Website: [HolyCrossLutheranDecatur.org](http://HolyCrossLutheranDecatur.org)

Email: [holycross3778@yahoo.com](mailto:holycross3778@yahoo.com)

Facebook @ [HolyCrossLutheranDecaturIL](https://www.facebook.com/HolyCrossLutheranDecaturIL)

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



## INTRODUCTION

*Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.*

## 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.**



## 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: O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

### First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

*The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel’s leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today’s reading is about humility.*

- <sup>6</sup> Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence  
or stand in the place of the great,  
<sup>7a</sup> for it is better to be told, “Come up here,”  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 112

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD  
and have great delight in God’s commandments!  
<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**  
<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.  
<sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**  
<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.  
<sup>6</sup> **For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**  
<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;



their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

**<sup>8</sup> Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

**<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.**

**<sup>10</sup> The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;  
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

## **Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> Let mutual affection continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*"Alleluia"*

**ELW p. 142**

P: The holy gospel according to Luke the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14**

*Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.*

<sup>1</sup> On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.



<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.  
<sup>8</sup> “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host,  
<sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

<sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

*“O God of Light”*

ELW #507

## \*APOSTLES’ CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord.  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and He will come 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: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.  
*A brief silence.*

A: For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

**C: Amen.**

**\*PEACE**



## MEAL

### OFFERING SONG

*“Goodness Is Stronger than Evil”*

**ELW #721**

*(We thank you for your time, talent, and money toward ministry and beyond. Please place your money donation in the offering plate, on-line, 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:



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## 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**

*“O Christ the Same”*

**ELW #760**

(Tune Londonderry Air – Danny Boy – use words on screen)

- 1 O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,  
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;  
eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,  
unchanging still amid the passing years:  
O living Word, the source of all creation,  
who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,  
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,  
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.**
- 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing  
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide;  
still as of old upon your body bearing  
the marks of love, in triumph glorified:  
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven,  
O Prince of life, in all your saving pow'r,  
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given,  
we bring our thanks for this the present hour.**
- 3 O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping  
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,  
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,  
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:  
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,  
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,  
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,  
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.**

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Text © 1984 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**\*DISMISSAL**

**A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**



Liturgy from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006. All Rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress

Lectionary - Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress.  
Permission is granted for congregations to reproduce copies for local use only and this copyright notice appears.

All reprints used by permission© John Ylvisaker, Box 321, Waverly, IA 50677  
CCLI License # 2368672 | One License #A-734658

## Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Amy Zietlow, Deacon Jason Fisher & Vicar Chris Edmonds
Assisting Minister	Abbey Jordan
Slides	Ruth Nihiser
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Interim Choir Director	Milt Scott
Technical Director	Mason Oliver
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Bill Fitzgerald
Greeter	Karen & Mike Reynolds
Check-In	Carol Tyler & Kay Wolken
Acolyte	Audrey Jordan
Communion Aide	Vicar Chris Edmonds & Deacon Jason Fisher
Money Counters	Gary Beck, Larry Haab, Sheryl Brilley
Son Rise Café	Marty & Sheryl Brilley and Kathy Scott

## Prayer Requests

First Lutheran	Holy Cross
Connie Andrews, Matt Andrews & Family, Galen Arnold, Dave Bachmann, Peg Books, Brandon Ellison, Esther Gregory, Kevin Gregory, James Jackson, Paul Kopetz, Jan Lawson, John Margias, Jarrod Renfro, Pastor Barbara Stroud-Borth, Dennis Tangney, Mary Ann Stolley, Ken Stolley, Rick Strine, Joyce Sweazy, Renee Wiedenkiller, Rudy Zucker Sr.	Elaine Jarvis-Decker, Corey Dudley, Theresa Edmonds, Patricia Page Flanagan (Vicar Chris' Mother), Mark & Joyce Jennings, Family of Larry King, Jan Lawson, Cindy Stricker

*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 everyone here and to those participating on-line

### General Announcements

- **Welcome Pastor Amy, Deacon Jason & Vicar Chris** for preaching & presiding this morning.
- At each worship service First Evangelical Lutheran Church 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. Once you have been served the sacraments, you are free to return to your seat.
- The **AMELCA** team served 120 clients on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. They served 102 last week, and 96 the week before so our client count continues to grow.
- As we have done during previous joint worship services, **all loose undesignated donations in the collection plate will be donated to AMELCA Food Pantry**. We will be passing the collection plate during the offering. We appreciate any loose change, bills or checks made payable to AMELCA. Thank you for contributing to this worthwhile ministry.
- **CSIS WELCA Fall Gathering Theme "My Cup Overflows"** Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> 9am-3pm at Good Shepherd in Champaign. Bring your favorite cup & a non-perishable item for the food pantry. Key Note speaker is Pastor Amy Zietlow and Minister Claire Vail is preparing lunch. Cost is \$20, includes snack and lunch. See flyer & registration form in Narthex for additional information and to sign up!

### First Lutheran Announcements

- The FELC **church office will be closed on Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>** for the Labor Day Holiday. The office is always closed on Tuesdays, so the Money Counters will need to make arrangements to count on Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Bells & Choir** practice begins on Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bells begin at 6:15pm and Choir begins at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Please come and join our friendly groups. The first Sunday choir will sing is September 7<sup>th</sup>. Bell & Choir practice are scheduled for all four Wednesdays in September; 9/3, 9/10, 9/17 & 9/24.
- Council will be sponsoring a **"Welcome Minister Claire" Son Rise** on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for fellowship as we welcome Minister Claire into our First Family.



- **“God’s Work, Our Hands”** project at DOVE will take place on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> after Son Rise. To volunteer, please email [felc\\_decatur@outlook.com](mailto:felc_decatur@outlook.com) or call Sheryl Brilley on 217-855-5715. Looking forward to having many volunteers.
- **Meals on Wheels** volunteers are needed to deliver meals Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Judy Carney by Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> if you are available; below is her contact information:
  - Home#: 217-429-0547
  - Cell#: 217-454-3901
  - Email: [jcarney329@comcast.net](mailto:jcarney329@comcast.net)
- **Youth Faith Formation begins Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**. Ms. Abbey will be conducting the younger group’s first lesson class & Mr. Rick will be leading the older group with their first Music class. Mom & Dad, Grandma & Grandpa, please mark your calendars and bring your children so they can join in on the fun. Faith Formation’s full calendar is in the September FLAME.
- **New Book Study** is scheduled to begin September 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:15pm in the Lounge. The book we will be reading is *“The Mary We Forgot”* by Jennifer Powell McNutt. Please email ([felc\\_decatur@outlook.com](mailto:felc_decatur@outlook.com)) or call (217-423-7783) the church office if you would like to attend or want a copy of the book.
- Church Council has approved for **“Back to Basics” Alcoholics Anonymous** group to meet here at FELC in the Fellowship Hall. They are a 12-step discussion group that meets daily. The group has another location option and they are voting this weekend which option to select. More details to follow.

## Holy Cross Announcements

- **We are excited to welcome Audrey Johnson to the Holy Cross staff!**  
Audrey has accepted the position of office secretary and has been training with Sara and Kay in preparation for her new role. She brings with her a wonderful array of skills and experience and will be working one day a week for 5 hours. Please join us in giving Audrey a warm welcome to the Holy Cross family!
- **Angel Tree Noisy Offering Donations** will begin September 14 and continue on September 21 & 28, October 5, 12, 19. Please save your change and bills for this offering.
- Mark your calendar for the **Ham & Bean dinner** on October 18<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds will be donated to AMELCA Food Pantry. Reach out to Kathy Carter to volunteer.
- **USO Calling Card** Noisy Offering will be November 2 & 9. Please save your change and bills for this offering.

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