

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



**September 28, 2025, at 9:30 am  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

## INTRODUCTION

*Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those “at our gate”, visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

## GATHERING

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful and loving God,

**C: we are your stiff-necked people.**

**We trample on the needy.**

**We grumble about your grace to others.**

**We turn away from the poor.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost  
and have been found. Amen.**

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**C: Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG**     *“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”*

**ELW #719**

## 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.

## \*KYRIE

ELW p. 184-185

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*“Glory to God in the Highest”*

ELW p. 185-186

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

C: O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

### WORD

#### First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

*The prophet Amos announces that Israel’s great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God’s people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.*

<sup>1a</sup> Woe to those who are at ease in Zion  
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.

<sup>4</sup> Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory  
and lounge on their couches  
and eat lambs from the flock  
and calves from the stall,

<sup>5</sup> who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp  
and like David improvise on instruments of music,

<sup>6</sup> who drink wine from bowls  
and anoint themselves with the finest oils  
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

<sup>7</sup> Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,  
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in rulers,  
in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup> **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,  
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

*Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.*

<sup>6</sup> Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, <sup>8</sup> but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. <sup>9</sup> But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

<sup>11</sup> But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I

charge you <sup>14</sup> to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>16</sup> It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

<sup>17</sup> As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, <sup>19</sup> thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*“Alleluia”*

**ELW p. 188**

P: The holy gospel according to Luke the 16<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

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

**Gospel: Luke 16:19-31**

*Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is “lifted up” and the rich one is “sent away empty.” Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>19</sup> “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ <sup>27</sup> He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ <sup>30</sup> He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup> He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to

Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**      *“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”*      **ELW #712**

## **\*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: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.  
*A brief silence.*

A: We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth. God of grace,

**C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”**

A: We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of grace,

**C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”**

A: We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

**C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”**

A: We pray for people in any need. Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. God of grace,

**C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”**

A: We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of grace,

**C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”**

A: We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. God of grace,

**C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”**

P: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

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

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Lord of the harvest,

**C: we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.**

**Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,  
but on you, who richly provides for us.  
Multiply what we have gathered  
to bless all who are suffering and in need,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.  
Who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
And by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
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, HOLY**

**ELW p. 190**

## **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. 191**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P:** Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

*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. 191**

## **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P:** O God,

**C:** through this meal you have strengthened us  
and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our  
possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **SENDING**

## **\*BLESSING**

**P:** The God of righteousness,  
who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry,  
who sets the prisoners free,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## **\*SENDING HYMN**

*"The Church of Christ, in Every Age"*

**ELW #729**

## **\*DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

## **\*POSTLUDE**

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## *Prayer Requests*

Connie Andrews, Matt Andrews & Family, Peg Books,  
Bob Cloney, Sandy Fitzgerald, Esther Gregory,  
Friends & Family of Kevin Gregory, James Jackson, Paul Kopetz,  
Jan Lawson, John Margias, Judy Oettel, Braden Pulson, Jarrod Renfro,  
Dennis Tangney, Mary Ann Stolley, Ken Stolley, Rick Strine,  
Renee Wiedenkiller, 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.*

Welcome to everyone here and to those participating on-line

## Announcements

- **The AMELCA** team served **125 clients** on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- **“First Fruits”** is an on-going special offering on the first Sunday of each month for AMELCA. Please make a donation of a non-perishable item like canned vegetables & fruit, canned soup, canned tuna, ramen noodle packs, canned pork & beans, boxed saltines, boxed mac & cheese, laundry pods, toilet paper or a financial contribution. Minister Claire will explain more in her sermon today.
- Today, Ms. Kris will lead the **Youth Faith Formation** older group with their first lesson class while the younger group will have their first Music class with Mr. Rick. Mom & Dad, Grandma & Grandpa, please mark your calendars and bring your young ones so they can join in on the fun. Faith Formation’s schedule of events is in the September FLAME & will also be in the October FLAME.
- **Book Study** will meet Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 12:15pm-1:15pm. Please read the Forward, Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2 prior to the meeting. All are welcome at Book Study; join in on the conversation!
- **Church Women United** are gathering in the sanctuary & fellowship hall from 12:00pm-3:00pm on **Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** for a meal & service.
- 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 in our Fellowship Hall. Meeting times are 8:00am – 9:15am Monday – Saturday and 6:00pm – 7:00pm Sunday. As I arrive each morning, there are several cars in our lower parking lot, indicating many attendees. What a blessing!
- **Meet, Eat & Greet hosts are scheduled** for the remainder of 2025: October (Ruth - chicken tacos), November (FELC - fried chicken) & December (Nancy & Marilyn – entrée to be announced). The 2026 MEG sign-up sheet is out, so I hope you consider signing up for one of the luncheons next year.

- **October 19<sup>th</sup>** is the **Blessing of the Quilts**. As a gentle reminder, there will be a noisy offering during worship service. Our Youth will be collecting your donations in the buckets during the Offering. Donations from the noisy offering are used to help with shipping fees. The quilts will likely be placed on the sanctuary chairs on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Anyone that would like to view the quilts on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, is welcome between 9:00am-4:00pm. It will likely be quiet in the sanctuary, so feel free to find a favorite quilt, sit in that chair and have some quiet prayer time.
- FELC is thrilled to host your activity, meeting or event. Please contact the office to secure a **building use request** form 2 weeks prior to your activity or event. Thank you!

## Let us Prepare our Hearts and Minds for Worship

### *Participants*

Presiding and Preaching	Minister Claire Vail
Assisting Minister	Terri Arnold
Slides	Galen Arnold
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Interim Choir Director	Milton Scott
Technical Director	Mason Oliver
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Mike Reynolds
Greeter	Marilyn Oftedal
Check-In	Nora Beck and Mary Jo Rowley
Acolyte	Gemma Berry
Communion Aide	Karen Reynolds
Money Counters	Jim & Judy Oettel and Gary & Carolyn Likins
Flowers	Tammi & Bruce Cannon
Son Rise Café	Council – to discuss Waddell Farmland bequest