

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



**October 5, 2025, at 9:30 am
17th Sunday after Pentecost
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

INTRODUCTION

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty!"

Kevin McChesney

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

"My God, How Wonderful Thou Art"

ELW #863

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: Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

WORD

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Injustice and violence in the time leading up to the Babylonian exile move this prophet to lament: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent? God answers by proclaiming that the righteous will live by faith.

¹ The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you “Violence!”
and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack,
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous;
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

^{2:1} I will stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

² Then the LORD answered me and said:
Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,

so that a runner may read it.

³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

⁴ Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 37:1-9

¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

² **For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

⁴ **Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.

⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

This letter written to Timothy is a personal message of encouragement. In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his faith is a gift of God. He is encouraged to exercise that faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

² To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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 17th Chapter.

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

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward.

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶ The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷ “Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? ⁸ Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? ⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’ ”

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“O Spirit of Life”

ELW #405

***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: Renewed in God’s everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

A: O God of the church, you give the church a treasure in Jesus Christ. Draw us into the gift of faith passed down from generation to generation. Remind your people that faith the size of a mustard seed is enough. God of grace,

C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”

A: O God of creation, you nourish the earth with grace and mercy. Bring favorable weather during the harvest season and sustain all creation along with all who labor in the

field. Ensure the welfare of animal companions whose presence offers comfort, safety, and joy. God of grace,

C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”

A: O God of nations and communities, you govern and guard the world. Give leaders and people in authority a spirit of making just and righteous laws. Bring peace to countries affected by war and violence. God of grace,

C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”

A: O God of those in need, you care for those who are sick, oppressed, bereaved, lonely, and poor. Come to the help of all in need. Help us to trust that you will come to us at the right time. God of grace,

C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”

A: O God of this congregation, you nurture our faith. Thank you for those of all ages who teach, lead, and learn in this congregation and beyond. Give growth to the seeds of faith watered by faithful examples of baptismal living. God of grace,

C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”

A: O God of ages past, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith. May the faith of those who now rest in your merciful arms, shape our faith in your Son, Jesus Christ. God of grace,

C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”

P: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***PEACE**

MEAL

OFFERING

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Sandra Eithun

(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.

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.**

***EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

P: In the name of God:

C: **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**

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**

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

ELW #545

***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 Fitzgerrel, Esther Gregory, Friends & Family of Kevin Gregory,
James Jackson, Paul Kopetz, Jan Lawson, Sharon Lindeman, John Margias,
Judy Oettel, Braden Pulson, Jarrod Renfro, Dennis Tangney,
Friends & Family of Robert Renton, 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

- **Welcome Pastor Thomas Kratzer!** Thank you for preaching & presiding this morning.
- **“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.
- **The AMELCA** team served 98 clients on Wednesday, October 1st.
- **No Youth Faith Formation (YFF) Classes today.** On October 12th the older group will have a music lesson from Mr. Rick and the younger group will have class with Ms. Abbey & Ms. Pat. The complete 2025-2026 YFF schedule is in the October FLAME.
- **Grief Group** is meeting Monday, October 6th at 11:00am in the Lounge.
- **DOVE Candlelight Service** will be held Tuesday, October 7th at 7:00pm – 8:00pm in our sanctuary here at FELC. All are welcome.
- **MEG (Meet, Eat & Greet) lunch** will be Thursday, October 9th in the fellowship hall. Chicken tacos are on the menu. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you can attend.
- **Robert Renton passed away** Wednesday, October 1st. A private service will be held on Friday, October 10th, at 11:00am at the Star of Hope Mausoleum, Graceland Cemetery. Please keep Carolyn Renton in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.
- **Book Study** will meet Monday, October 13th from 12:15pm-1:15pm. Please read Chapters 3 & 4 of *“The Mary We Forgot”* prior to the meeting. All are welcome at Book Study; join in on the conversation!
- **Ham & Bean Dinner at Holy Cross** will be Saturday, October 18th 4:00pm – 7:00pm in the fellowship hall. Eat-in or Carry-out is available. Ham & Beans, cornbread & desserts will be served. They also have hot dogs for those that don’t want Ham & Beans. All proceeds will be donated to AMELCA.

- **October 19th** 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 16th. Anyone that would like to view the quilts on Friday, October 17th, 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.
- **Meet, Eat & Greet hosts are scheduled** for the remainder of 2025: October (Ruth - chicken tacos), November (FELC - fried chicken) & December (Nancy & Marilyn – Roasted Chicken). The 2026 MEG sign-up sheet is out, so I hope you consider signing up for one of the luncheons next year.
- FELC would be 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	Reverend Thomas Kratzer
Assisting Minister	Peg Allgeier
Slides	Bill Fitzgerald
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Interim Choir Director	Milton Scott
Technical Director	Mason Oliver
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Steve Wenger
Greeter	Tammi & Bruce Cannon
Check-In	Ruth Nihiser & Marsha Thornhill
Acolyte	Ensley Dalen
Communion Aide	Bill Fitzgerald
Money Counters	Gary Beck, Larry Haab, Sheryl Brilley
Flowers	Terry & Christina Shields – Thankful for Blessing