

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



**October 12, 2025, at 9:30 am  
18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

## INTRODUCTION

*It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*"Jesus Loves Me"*

**See Insert**

## 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

*"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"*

**ELW #864**

## 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: Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

### WORD

#### First Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

*Naaman, a Syrian general, suffers from leprosy. In this passage Elisha miraculously cures his illness, but only after Naaman realizes, with the help of his servants, that he also needs healing for his pride. This foreign general then acknowledges the sovereignty of the God of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup> Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. <sup>2</sup> Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman’s wife. <sup>3</sup> She said to her mistress, “If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease.”

<sup>7</sup> When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.”

<sup>8</sup> But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.” <sup>9</sup> So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha’s house. <sup>10</sup> Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you

shall be clean.” <sup>11</sup> But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, “I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! <sup>12</sup> Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” He turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup> But his servants approached and said to him, “Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” <sup>14</sup> So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

<sup>15a, b, c</sup> Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 111**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup> **Great are your works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup> Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> **You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup> You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.

<sup>6</sup> **You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup> The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup> **They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup> You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is your name.

<sup>10</sup> **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise endures forever.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“Lord, I Lift My Hands to You”*

**Jay Althouse**

## **Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15**

*Though Paul is chained as a prisoner, the word of God is never shackled or confined. Timothy is encouraged to proclaim that word of freedom in an honest and upright life as well as in his teaching and preaching.*

<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

<sup>11</sup> The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

<sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

<sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

he cannot deny himself.

<sup>14</sup> Remind them of this, and warn them before the Lord that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. <sup>15</sup> Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

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 17<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

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

## **Gospel: Luke 17:11-19**

*Jesus' mission includes making people clean again. Unexpectedly, a Samaritan healed of leprosy becomes a model for those who would praise and worship God and give thanks for God's mercy.*

<sup>11</sup> On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, <sup>13</sup> they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” <sup>14</sup> When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. <sup>15</sup> Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup> He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? So where are

the other nine? <sup>18</sup> Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?"  
<sup>19</sup> Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"Baptized and Set Free"*

**ELW #453**

**\*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: Gracious God, you lead your people to faith. Remind the church that your word flows into the world. By your Spirit, teach the church to share the word of God for the sake of the world. God of grace,

**C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”**

A: Creating God, you provided cleansing and healing waters for Naaman. Water the earth’s lands in parched places. Restore clean water to all communities, and guide the work of all who advocate for safe and abundant water supplies. God of grace,

**C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”**

A: Righteous One, you bring justice and wholeness throughout the world, and your righteousness endures forever. By your spirit, guide leaders of all nations and lands to right relationship with you and with one another. God of grace,

**C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”**

A: Merciful God, you know the needs of your people. Show mercy to those suffering in the world. Comfort those in need of your healing. God of grace,

**C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”**

A: Life-giving God, you free us by your word. Help us, by your Spirit, to be transformed to live your word of freedom honestly and uprightly in our teaching, preaching, and serving. God of grace,

**C: SM #178 “Hear Our Prayer”**

A: Holy God, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith. Guide us to trust in the baptismal promise of resurrection in 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**

*“Show Me Your Ways”*

**Carl Schalk**

*(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.**

**\*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

- **The AMELCA** team served 101 clients on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **The AMELCA Team** sends a sincere **Thank You** to everyone that has contributed to the Food Pantry. “First Fruits” was a success!! Thank you for your generosity!
- **Youth Faith Formation (YFF) Classes are today.** 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.
- **Book Study** is meeting Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 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!
- **LWR School & Personal Kits** will be assembled Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship hall. The kits will be packed-up on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and the quilts will be folded and placed on the backs of the sanctuary chairs. You are welcome to view the quilts on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, with quiet prayer time in the sanctuary from 9:00am-4:00pm.
- **Art Workshop** will meet on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm-2:30pm in the fellowship hall.
- **Ham & Bean Dinner at Holy Cross** will be Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> is the Blessing of the Quilts.** 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. Quilts & kits will be delivered to Bloomington on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **Pastor Jon Fry**, University of IL campus ministry, will be a guest speaker here at FELC on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. More to follow.

- **In November, AMELCA** will be asking for special donations to fill Thanksgiving baskets that will be handed out on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>; the day before Thanksgiving. Items like stuffing mix, instant potatoes, canned green beans, and other traditional food items will be on the list. A full list will be in an upcoming bulletin and the November FLAME.
- **Meet, Eat & Greet hosts are scheduled** for the remainder of 2025: 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	Minister Claire Vail
Assisting Minister	Bill Fitzgerald
Slides	Jim Oettel
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Interim Choir Director	Milton Scott
Technical Director	Mason Oliver
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Bill Fitzgerald
Greeter	Carolyn Renton
Check-In	Ruth Nihiser & Marsha Thornhill
Acolyte	Audrey Jordan
Communion Aide	Carol Tyler
Money Counters	Gary Beck, Larry Haab, Sheryl Brilley
Flowers	Milt & Carla Scott – Honoring Milt's 80 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
Son Rise Café	Nancy Salefski