

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Decatur, Illinois
(217) 423-7783**

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



**October 19, 2025, at 9:30 am
19th Sunday after Pentecost
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

INTRODUCTION

*Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today.
Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to
Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.*

GATHERING

*"Prelude from Hansel und Gretel"
"Deep River"*

Arr. J. Kirschen
Arr. J. Beyrent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"O Welt, ich muss dich lassen"

Arr. L. Shaw

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

"Rise Up, O Saints of God"

ELW #669

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 Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother’s birthright and his father’s blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to “Israel,” a name that means “he wrestles with God.”

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” ²⁷ So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸ Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed.” ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved.” ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
- ² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**
- ³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- ⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
- ⁵ the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**
- ⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.
- ⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

ANTHEM

“Be Thou My Vision”

Arr. D. Baptist

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: The holy gospel according to Luke the 18th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.

² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Let Justice Flow like Streams”

ELW #717

***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: We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ. God of grace,

C: SM #178 "Hear Our Prayer"

A: We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos. God of grace,

C: SM #178 "Hear Our Prayer"

A: We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected officials humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world. God of grace,

C: SM #178 "Hear Our Prayer"

A: We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer. God of grace,

C: SM #178 "Hear Our Prayer"

A: We pray for First Evangelical Lutheran Church. O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need. God of grace,

C: SM #178 "Hear Our Prayer"

A: We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of 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

“Pie Jesu”

Faure/Bell

(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"
"Ave Verum Corpus"*

**ELW p. 191
Mozart/Buss**

***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**

“Day by Day”

ELW #790

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

“Praise to the Lord”

Arr. J. Hilfiger

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Prayer Requests

Connie Andrews, Matt Andrews & Family, Peg Books, Bob Cloney,
Sandy Fitzgerald, Esther Gregory, James Jackson, Paul Kopetz,
Jan Lawson, Sharon Lindeman, John Margias, Braden Pulson,
Jarrod Renfro, Dennis Tangney, Friends & Family of Robert Renton,
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
Assisting Minister
Slides
Organist/Bell Choir Director
Interim Choir Director
Technical Director
Audio/Visual
Bell Ringer
Greeter
Check-In
Acolyte
Communion Aide
Money Counters
Flowers

Minister Claire Vail
Isaac Ford
Tammi & Bruce Cannon
Rick Strine
Milton Scott
Mason Oliver
Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Steve Wenger
Carolyn Renton
Ruth Nihiser & Marsha Thornhill
Ella Taute
Kris Sites
Gary Beck, Larry Haab, Sheryl Brilley
John & Lin Malachowski

Welcome to everyone here and to those participating on-line

Announcements

- **Today is the Blessing of the Quilts and noisy offering.** 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 25th.
- **Youth Faith Formation (YFF) Craft/Bulletin Board is today.** The complete 2025-2026 YFF schedule is in the October FLAME.
- **Are your children/grandchildren ready for confirmation?** Parents are meeting today at Holy Cross at 11:00am to discuss plans for the upcoming confirmation class. As we have done in the past, Holy Cross & First join together for confirmation classes. More details to follow.
- **The AMELCA team** served 105 clients on Wednesday, October 15th. The AMELCA team is working on a plan for Thanksgiving. We will keep you posted.
- **Grief Group** meets Monday, October 20th at 11:00am in the Lounge.
- **Council** meets Monday, October 20th at 6:00pm in the Lounge.
- **Bells** meet Wednesday, October 22nd at 5:30pm
- **Adult Choir** meets Wednesday, October 22nd at 7:00pm.
- **Pastor Jon Fry**, University of IL campus ministry, will be a guest speaker here at FELC on Sunday, November 16th. More to follow.

- **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!
- The **First Sunday in Advent is 11/30**. Holy Cross is planning to have a meal and mid-week Advent services on Thursdays 12/4, 12/11, & 12/18. Watch for details!
- With the change of weather, **our front door isn't latching properly**. There have been 2 occasions where I approached the front door and it looked closed but it wasn't latched. And leaving the building, the door looked closed, but it was open enough to where it didn't latch. Whether you are entering or leaving, please pull on the door to ensure it is latched. Thank you!!

Let us Prepare our Hearts and Minds for Worship