

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



**November 2, 2025, at 9:30 am  
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY  
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

## INTRODUCTION

*In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today we give thanks for all the saints “who from their labors rest.” In the same breath we petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of Jesus in today’s gospel. Sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior’s body and blood, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God’s glory.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

## GATHERING

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Faithful God,

**C: you have shown us the ways of your heart,  
yet we stray from your paths.**

**We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression  
and do not embrace the freedom  
of your faithful promises.**

**We ignore our neighbors.**

**We exploit the earth.**

**We reject your abundance,  
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.**

**Repair our relationships,  
restore what we have broken,  
renew our hearts,  
and bring us to new life. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news:  
God the Faithful One loves you,  
✠ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

**C: Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG**

*“For All the Saints”*

**ELW #422**  
**st. 1, 2, 3, & 6**

**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. 138-139**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*“This Is The Feast”*

**ELW p. 140-141**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SONG**

*“Saints Go Marching In”*

**John Mandeville/Steve Siler**

**WORD**

**First Reading: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18**

*The book of Daniel was written in the second century BCE, when the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes was severely persecuting the Jews. Daniel’s vision of the four beasts proclaims that human kings will come and go, but the kingdom will ultimately belong to God and to God’s people.*

<sup>1</sup> In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: <sup>2</sup> I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, <sup>3</sup> and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

<sup>15</sup> As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. <sup>16</sup> I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: <sup>17</sup> “As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. <sup>18</sup> But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 149

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song,  
God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.
- <sup>2</sup> **Let Israel rejoice in their maker;  
let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.**
- <sup>3</sup> Let them praise their maker's name with dancing;  
let them sing praise with tambourine and harp.
- <sup>4</sup> **For the LORD takes pleasure in the people  
and adorns the poor with victory.**
- <sup>5</sup> Let the faithful rejoice in triumph;  
let them sing for joy on their beds.
- <sup>6</sup> **Let the praises of God be in their throat  
and a two-edged sword in their hand,**
- <sup>7</sup> to wreak vengeance on the nations  
and punishment on the peoples,
- <sup>8</sup> **to bind their kings in chains  
and their nobles with links of iron,**
- <sup>9</sup> to inflict on them the judgment decreed;  
this is glory for all God's faithful ones. Hallelujah!

### Second Reading: Ephesians 1:11-23

*After giving thanks for the faith of the Ephesians, the writer of this letter prays that they might understand the wisdom, hope, and power of God that is embodied in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

<sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

<sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

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

**Gospel: Luke 6:20-31**

*In echoes of the prophet Isaiah and Mary’s song of praise, Jesus reveals surprising things about who enjoys blessing and who endures woe. He invites his disciples to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders.*

<sup>20</sup> Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

<sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### CANDLE LIGHTING AND REMEMBRANCE

As we celebrate this, All Saints Sunday, let us remember those who have touched our lives in a special way, those who have helped light our way on earth, but who now enjoy eternal light and life in heaven. I invite you to think of those who have been a light to you.

*(A brief silence)*

We use the symbol of light that Christ used to proclaim his presence among us.

John 8:12 *"I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*

We light a candle for those loved ones at FELC who have died since last All Saints Day.

*(bell toll and light candle as names are mentioned)*

- ❖ Helen Burdick
- ❖ Kevin Gregory
- ❖ Robert Renton
- ❖ And one for those others you know who have died

P: The light of remembrance shines before all here in this gathering. Let us pray,

**C: Almighty God, grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"*

**ELW #424**

**\*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: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: God of all that is, delight in the praises of your people and revive the spirit of your church. Move through us with boldness so that we proclaim the gospel of Christ throughout the world. Renew and revive pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of the beginning, give us the courage to advocate for environmental policy that will ensure a viable future for generations to come. Restore desolate places to health and flourishing. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of all our days, guide the leaders of governments, nations, municipalities, and all those seeking office. Accompany election officials and volunteers. Dismantle injustice and oppression wherever it is found. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of comfort in troubled times, we pray for those in need of protection and care. Trusting that you are constant in mercy, protect those who seek safety and solace. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of what is yet to come, encourage and inspire those who give their time, talent, and treasure in service to your church. By their commitment, further the work of ministry in this place and uplift your gospel. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of time and space, we give thanks for the faithful departed. Sustain us in hope of our eternal unity in Christ. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

### **MEAL**

**OFFERING**

*“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”*

**L. Scott**

(See Insert)

*(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: God of healing and hope,

**C: you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things.**

**Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.**

**Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. 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.

By the witness of the saints you show us the hope of our calling,

And strengthen us to run the race set before us,

That we may delight in your mercy, and rejoice with them in glory.

And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels,

and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**ELW p. 144**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth.

You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys,  
and taught them by the prophets.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,  
and make us one in this community of faith  
and with your people throughout the world.  
Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life,  
Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 145

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: There is a place for you at the table of God.

Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

*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. 146**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**C: God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world.**

**Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst,  
and embolden us to love and serve in Christ’s 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 love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,  
God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.  
The holy Trinity bless you ☩ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart  
now and forever.**

**C: Amen.**

### **\*SENDING HYMN**

*“Shall We Gather at the River”*

**ELW #423**

### **\*DISMISSAL**

**A: Go in peace. Share the harvest.**

**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, Charlotte Hubbard, Paul Kopetz, Jan Lawson,  
John Margias, Carla Scott, Mary Ann Stolley, Ken Stolley, Rick Strine

*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      | Minister Claire Vail              |
| Assisting Minister           | Carol Tyler                       |
| Slides                       | Bill Fitzgerald                   |
| Organist/Bell Choir Director | Rick Strine                       |
| Interim Choir Director       | Milton Scott                      |
| Guest Organist               | Steve Wenger                      |
| Technical Director           | Mason Oliver                      |
| Audio/Visual                 | Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team  |
| Bell Ringer                  | Bob Tyler                         |
| Greeter                      | Bruce & Tammi Cannon              |
| Check-In                     | Carol Broeking & Pat Dalen        |
| Acolyte                      | Gemma Berry                       |
| Communion Aide               | Bob Tyler                         |
| Money Counters               | Bob & Judy Carney and Mike Corley |

**Welcome to everyone here and to those participating on-line**

## Announcements

- Council has approved a resolution to have a **special meeting of the congregation immediately following the worship service on 11/16/2025**. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the sale of 80 acres bequeathed to First Lutheran and Millikin University.
- **The AMELCA** team served 133 clients on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- **Grief Group** meets Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00am in the Lounge.
- **Minister Claire will be out of the office 11/5 – 11/10**. Pastor Janet Lepp will be our Pulpit Supply next Sunday, 11/9.

- **Our Thanksgiving Potluck is back!** On Sunday, November 23rd, we will be celebrating our thanks for our Congregational family, following the service. Sign-up sheets are located on the podium in the narthex. Please sign-up for a Main Dish, Side Dish, Salad, Dessert, or something else you would like to share.
- **Toys for Tots collection boxes will be in the Narthex and by the lower door during November.** WAND-TV will be hosting their “Day of Giving” on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Once again First Lutheran will be collecting unwrapped, new toys to be distributed to over 3,000 Decatur children.
- **Work on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) has been completed** and was presented at the Church Council meeting on Monday evening. The MSP was unanimously approved and we will move onto the next step. The team that has worked for months on this project took the information provided by the congregation at all of our Discover and Invite sessions and condensed it into the format that will be sent to the Synod. There are a number of steps that the Synod will take in the next few weeks and we expect that our pastoral vacancy will be posted before the end of the year.
- **Pastor Jon Fry**, University of IL campus ministry, will be a guest speaker here at FELC on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. It would be lovely to have Son Rise Café after worship. Please consider signing up as Son Rise Host on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!!
- **We will not have a joint worship service at Holy Cross on 11/30.** We will have a regular worship service here at FELC. We have moved the joint worship service at Holy Cross to Epiphany Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **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 in 2026.
- 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.** All are invited.
- Beginning 11/30, Jane Cade will put out boxes for **Baby Jesus donations**. Infant clothing, onesies, receiving blankets, diapers, etc. will be collected thru 12/21.
- With the change of weather, **our front door isn’t latching properly**. 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**