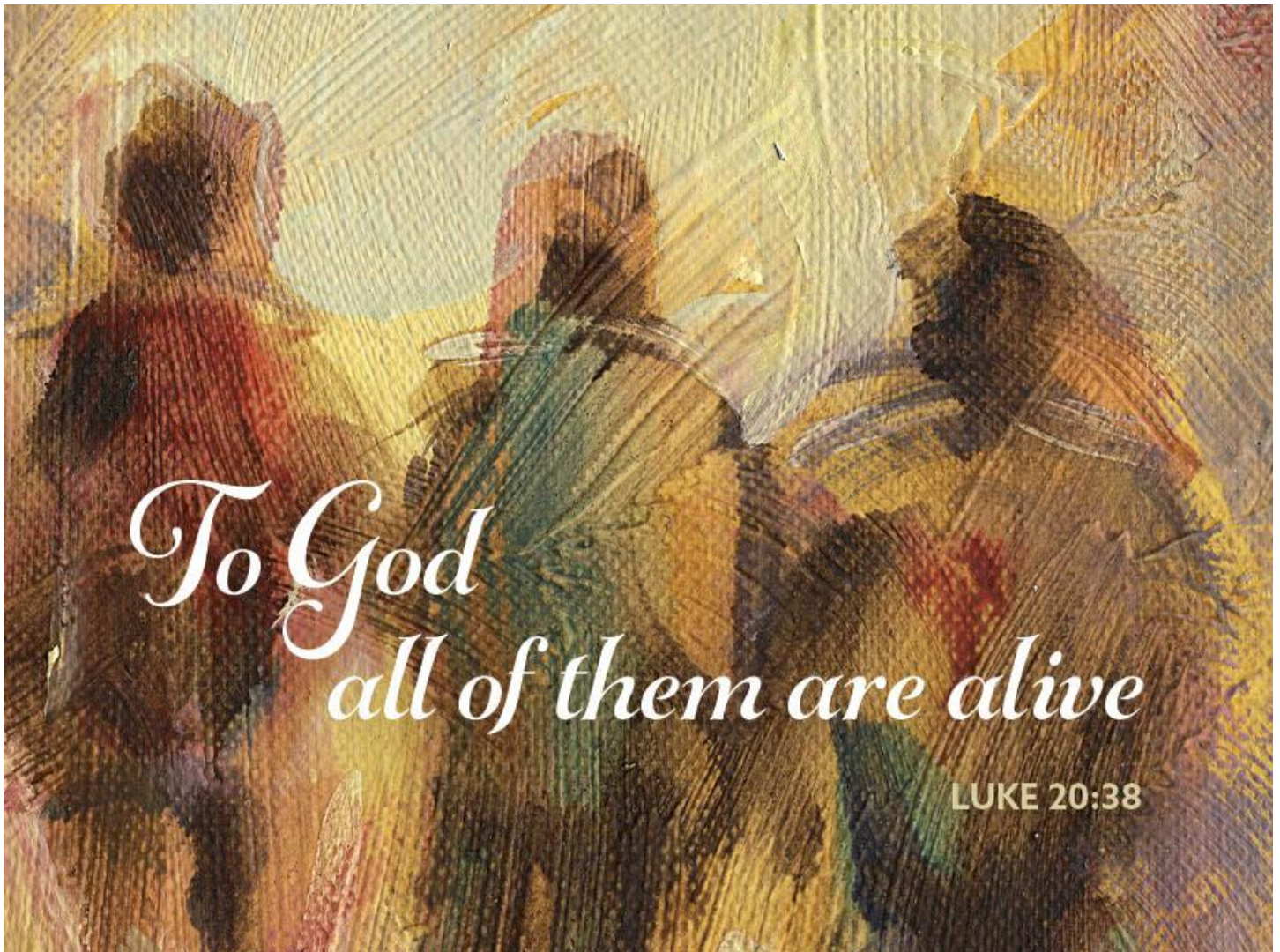


**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 W. Decatur St.
Decatur, Illinois
(217) 423-7783**

**Website: www.felcdecatur.org
Email: felc_decatur@outlook.com**

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



**November 9, 2025, at 9:30 am
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

INTRODUCTION

We worship on the first day of the week because Jesus was raised on that day. Every Sunday is a little Easter. This Sunday feels more like Easter than many as the appointed texts celebrate the reality of the resurrection. Live it up this Lord's day. Our God is the God of the living.

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**

“Jerusalem, My Happy Home”

ELW #628

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**

“Glory To God”

ELW p. 139-140

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray,

C: O God, our eternal redeemer, by the presence of your Spirit you renew and direct our hearts. Keep always in our mind the end of all things and the day of judgment. Inspire us for a holy life here, and bring us to the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

WORD

First Reading: Job 19:23-27a

Job suffers the loss of children, wealth, and health. Accused by his companions of wrongdoing, he knows himself to be innocent. Here, in the midst of his suffering, Job clings to the radical hope that his vindicator, his redeemer, lives; and that one day he himself will see God.

²³ “O that my words were written down!

O that they were inscribed in a book!

²⁴ O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock forever!

²⁵ For I know that my vindicator lives
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth;

²⁶ and after my skin has been destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,

^{27a} whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 17:1-9

¹ Hear a just cause, O LORD; give heed to my cry;
listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying lips.

² **Let my vindication come forth from your presence;
let your eyes be fixed on justice.**

³ Examine my heart, visit me by night,
melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.

⁴ **I have not regarded what others do;
at the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.**

⁵ My footsteps hold fast to your well-worn path;
and my feet do not slip.

⁶ **I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me;
incline your ear to me and hear my words.**

⁷ Show me your marvelous lovingkindness,
O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand from those who rise against them.

⁸ **Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me under the shadow of your wings,**

⁹ from the wicked who assault me,
from my deadly enemies who surround me.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Alleluia! Sing Alleluia”

Bach/Leavitt

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

This portion of the letter provides encouragement for the church at Thessalonica during a time of confusion and opposition, as some allowed their concern over Jesus' imminent return to divert them from the central teachings of the gospel.

¹ As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way, for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction.

⁴ He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

¹³ But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the

Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

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 20th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

Some Sadducees, who do not believe in the resurrection of the dead, try to trap Jesus. They formulate the convoluted case of a serial widow who marries a succession of seven brothers. Jesus responds by teaching about God to whom all are alive and in whom all relationships are fulfilled.

²⁷ Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to [Jesus] ²⁸ and asked him a question: “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.

²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; ³⁰ then the second ³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless.

³² Finally the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.”

³⁴ Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶ Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection.

³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives!"

ELW #619

*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 our Redeemer, bless your church universal and its leaders. Set all hearts on you from generation to generation in anticipation of Christ's return. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of life, we give thanks for the fruits and grains of harvest, for rivers and streams, for all that is made of rock and iron. Renew the earth's natural resources and the lands from which they come. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of justice, we give thanks for the service of our veterans and pray for those needing support for wounds of any kind. Strengthen those charged with the governance and protection of vulnerable populations. Bring an end to war throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God who leads us to belief and truth, we give thanks that you are always and already here. Nurture and support those who are unsteady in mind, unsafe in spirit, or unwell in body. Comfort those who suffer from trauma and exposure to traumatic events. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God who gathers us together, we give thanks for our pastors and deacons, teachers and musicians, administrators, and building caretakers. May they find joy in leadership as we grow in faith together. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of the saints, we give thanks for all who have died in faith. Uplift us as we honor their memory and await your coming in glory. 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

(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.
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. 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.**

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**

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW #638

***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,
Kandy Donahue, Sandy Fitzgerrel, Esther Gregory, Charlotte Hubbard,
Paul Kopetz, Jan Lawson, John Margias, Carla Scott, 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	Pastor Janet Lepp
Assisting Minister	Lucas Reynolds
Slides	Tammi Cannon
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	Jeff Kopetz
Check-In	Carol Broeking & Pat Dalen
Acolyte	Ella Taute
Communion Aide	Kris Sites
Money Counters	Bob & Judy Carney and Mike Corley
Flowers	Lee Flower Memorial

Welcome to everyone here and to those participating on-line

Announcements

- Please **welcome Pastor Janet Lepp** who is preaching and presiding this morning.
- Council has approved a resolution to have a **special congregation meeting immediately following 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 166 clients on Wednesday, November 5th.
- **Book Study** meets Monday, November 10th at 12:15pm in the Lounge. During this final meeting, we will discuss chapters 7 & 8 of *"The Mary We Forgot"*.
- **Exec** meets Monday, November 10th at 6:00pm.
- **Meet, Eat & Greet Luncheon** will be Thursday, November 13th at Noon. Fried Chicken and beverages will be provided. Please sign-up to bring a side dish or dessert. Everyone is welcome!!
- **Finance Committee** meets Thursday, November 13th at 4:00pm.
- **Foundation** meets Thursday, November 13th at 5:30pm.

- **Anticipating Advent at Central Christian Church:** A Morning for Prayer and Devotion on Saturday, Nov. 15th, at Central Christian Church (650 W. William St.) from 9am-12:30pm for Pre-Advent Quiet Morning. Hope and hopeful stories from the Bible will be the focus. You must make a reservation with Rev. Melinda if you wish to attend. Folks are welcome to stay for 1 hour or you may stay longer. Bring your Bible and a journal if you wish to take notes. Please email Rev. Melinda at melinda.mcdonald@cccdisciples.org if you wish to participate.
- **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 5th. Once again First Lutheran will be collecting unwrapped, new toys to be distributed to over 3,000 Decatur children.
- **Pastor Jon Fry**, University of IL campus ministry, will be a guest speaker here at FELC on Sunday, November 16th. Thank you to the Carney’s & Wenger’s for hosting Son Rise!
- Kay will be on vacation the week of Thanksgiving, beginning November 23rd. Office hours will be limited on Monday & Wednesday. The office is closed Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.
- **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 4th.
- **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