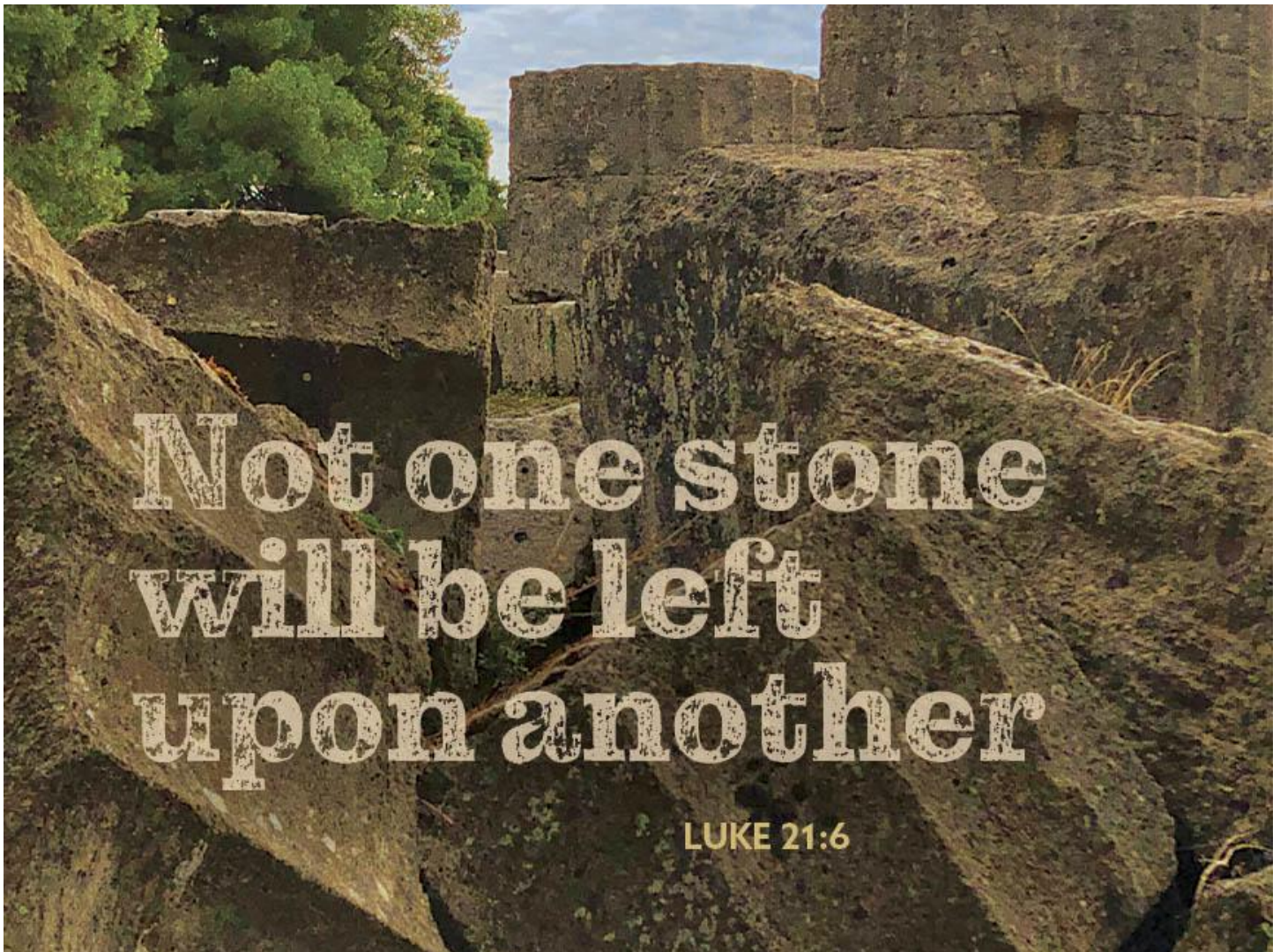


**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Decatur, Illinois
(217) 423-7783**

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

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



**November 16, 2025, at 9:30 am
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

INTRODUCTION

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

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**

“Rise, O Sun of Righteousness”

ELW #657

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, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

WORD

First Reading: Malachi 4:1-2a

Malachi, whose name means “my messenger,” warns that “the day is coming.” On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the “sun of righteousness” will shine on those who honor God.

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

² **O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵ Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶ **With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸ **Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the
earth.**

⁹ The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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 21st Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹ “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“O God of Every Nation”

ELW #713

***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 roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. 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

Choir Anthem

"God's Peace"

C. J. Adams

(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: Let us Pray,

C: God of healing and hope, 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**

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

ELW #632

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Participants

Presiding	Minister Claire Vail
Preaching	Pastor Jon Fry
Assisting Minister	Abbey Jordan
Slides	Galen Arnold
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Interim Choir Director	Milton Scott
Technical Director	Mason Oliver
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Mike Reynolds
Greeter	Cheryl Wallace
Check-In	Carol Broeking & Pat Dalen
Acolyte	Ensley Dalen
Communion Aide	Carol Tyler
Money Counters	Bob & Judy Carney and Mike Corley
Flowers	Gary & Nora Beck in Memory of their Daughter, Tammy
Son Rise Café	Bob & Judy Carney and Steve & Karen Wenger

Prayer Requests

Connie Andrews, Matt Andrews & Family, Peg Books, 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.*

Welcome to everyone here and to those participating on-line

Announcements

- Please **welcome Pastor Jon Fry**, University of IL campus ministry, **our guest speaker** this morning.
- Thank you to the Carney's & Wenger's for hosting **Son Rise this morning**.
- Today is the **special congregation meeting immediately following worship service** to discuss the sale of 80 acres bequeathed to First Lutheran and Millikin University.
- It's getting close to the end of the year and I'll start working on the FELC Annual Report in December. Committee Heads & Chairpersons, your **Annual Reports are due to the office no later than December 7th**. If possible, please email your report via MS Word document and send to the church office email, felc_decatur@outlook.com. Please do not send your document via One Drive or Google Drive. Thank you!
- The **AMELCA team served 125 clients** on Wednesday, November 12th.
- **Grief Group** meets Monday, November 17th, 11:00am-12:30pm in the Lounge.
- **Church Council** meets Monday, November 17th at 6:00pm.
- **Personnel Committee** meets Wednesday, November 19th at 3:30pm in the Lounge.
- **Call Committee** meets Wednesday, November 19th at 5:30pm in the Lounge.

- **Art Workshop** meets Thursday, November 20th at 1:00-2:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Dove Finance Meeting** meets Thursday, November 20th from 4:00pm-5:00pm in the Lounge.
- **Stewardship letters** were mailed out last Friday, so hopefully you have received your copy. In the envelope was the letter, a Planned Giving Card, and a return envelope. Please return your Planned Giving Card by **November 23rd which is “Stewardship Sunday”**. You can mail it to the church office, put the envelope in the offering basket on Sunday, or leave it with Kay in the church office. Whatever is most convenient for you is fine with us. Contact Jay Rowley with questions.
- The **Cookies in a Jar fundraiser for AMELCA** will begin on Sunday, November 30th. The cost for a jar will be \$15. We are hoping to have 3 types of cookies available this year.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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.

Let us Prepare our Hearts and Minds for Worship