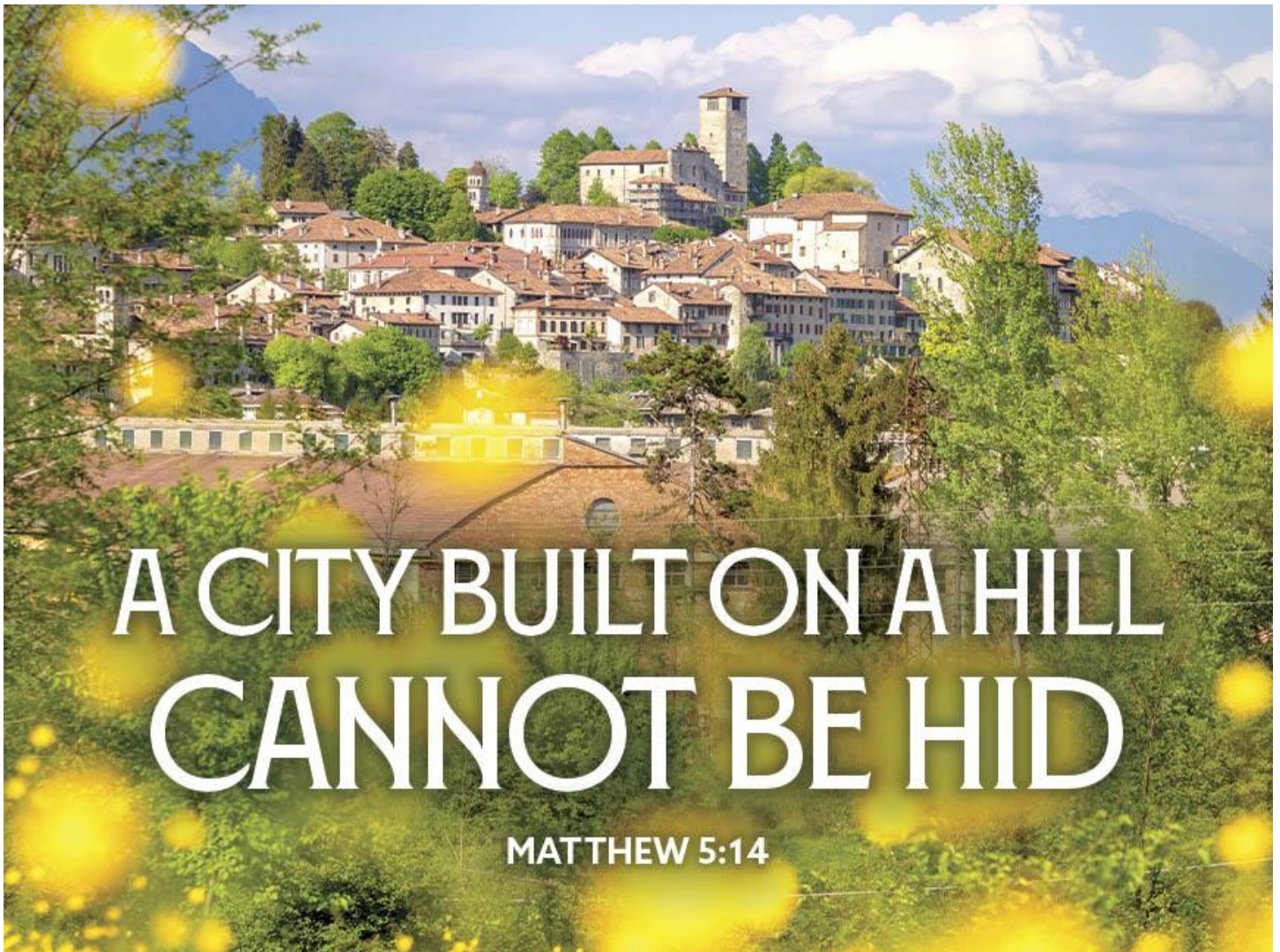


**First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
250 W. Decatur St.  
Decatur, Illinois  
(217) 423-7783**

**Website: [www.felcdecatur.org](http://www.felcdecatur.org)  
Email: [felc\\_decatur@outlook.com](mailto:felc_decatur@outlook.com)**

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



**February 8, 2026, at 9:30am  
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

## INTRODUCTION

*Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

*“Walk In The Light”*

75 **Walk In The Light**

Walk in the light, Jesus, the light! Walk in the light of his  
Live in the light, Jesus, the light! Live in the light of his  
Work in the light, Jesus, the light! Work in the light of his

glo-ry and might. Who brings a spark to the dark-ness of night?

Je - sus, the light of the world.

## GATHERING

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C: you call us to life in community,  
but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.  
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.  
We say the right words,  
but our hearts are far from you.  
Turn us to seek your face.  
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,  
that we may do justice, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

P: The former things have passed away,  
and new things God now declares:  
Like a spring of water that never fails,  
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.  
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace.

**C: Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG**      *“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”*

**ELW #510**

**1 Word of God, come down on earth,  
living rain from heav'n descending;  
touch our hearts and bring to birth  
faith and hope and love unending.  
Word almighty, we revere you;  
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.**

**2 Word eternal, throned on high,  
Word that brought to life creation,  
Word that came from heav'n to die,  
crucified for our salvation,  
saving Word, the world restoring,  
speak to us, your love outpouring.**

**3 Word that speaks God's tender love,  
one with God beyond all telling,  
Word that sends us from above  
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,  
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;  
Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919

Text © James Quinn, SJ, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent. [www.selahpub.com](http://www.selahpub.com)

## **GREETING**

**ELW p. 98**

**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. 98-99**

## **\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*"This is the Feast"*

**ELW p. 101**

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray,

**C:** Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **WORD**

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12**

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

<sup>1</sup> Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments;  
they want God on their side.

<sup>3</sup> “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup> You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”  
If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,



and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm 112:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD  
and have great delight in God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.

<sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> **For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

<sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;  
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16**

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you

except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup> Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup> and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

<sup>9</sup> But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.

<sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. <sup>13</sup> And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup> Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup> Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup> “For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*“Alleluia”*

**ELW p. 102**

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew the 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

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

**Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

Jesus said: <sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Lord of Light”*

**ELW #688**

**1 Lord of light, your name outshining  
all the stars and suns of space,  
use our talents in your kingdom  
as the servants of your grace;  
use us to fulfill your purpose  
in the gift of Christ your Son:**

### *Refrain*

**Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.**

**2 By the toil of faithful workers  
in some far outlying field,  
by the courage where the radiance  
of the cross is still revealed,  
by the victories of meekness,  
through reproach and suff'ring won: *Refrain***



**3 Grant that knowledge, still increasing,  
at your feet may lowly kneel;  
with your grace our triumphs hallow,  
with your charity our zeal;  
lift the nations from the shadows  
to the gladness of the sun: *Refrain***

**4 By the prayers of faithful watchers,  
never silent day or night;  
by the cross of Jesus, bringing  
peace to all and healing light;  
by the love that passes knowledge,  
making all your children one: *Refrain***

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt.  
Text © Union of Welsh Independents

### **\*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: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.**

*A brief silence.*

A: Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving. Merciful God,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.  
**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 Majesty,

**C: no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.**

**Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan  
you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he  
revealed your glory.

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. 108**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains,  
with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your  
own. That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

**C: Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,  
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life,  
whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.  
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty  
With all the world.

**C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions,  
as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing,  
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the  
Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**ELW p. 112**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

*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. 112-113**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Radiant God,

**C: we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.**

**In the sacrament of his body and blood  
you have drawn us to your heart.**

**Send us from this table with delight,  
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,  
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*BLESSING**

P: May the triune God,

who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise

✠ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*“We Are Marching in the Light ”*

**ELW #866**

**We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,  
we are marching in the light of God.**

*Additional stanzas ad lib:*

**We are dancing . . .**

**We are praying . . .**

**We are singing . . .**

## **\*DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **\*POSTLUDE**

Liturgy from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006. All Rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress

Lectionary - Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress.

Permission is granted for congregations to reproduce copies for local use only and this copyright notice appears.

All reprints used by permission© John Ylvisaker, Box 321, Waverly, IA 50677

CCLI License # 2368672 | One License #A-734658

## *Prayer Requests*

Connie Andrews, Matt Andrews & Family, Peg Books,  
Vicar Chris Edmonds, Esther Gregory, Paul Kopetz, Jan Lawson,  
Friends & Family of John Margias, Marilyn Oftedal,  
RuthAnn & Don Ruby, Sebastian (Bass) Smallwood,  
Mary Ann Stolley, Ken Stolley, Rick Strine,  
Ann Thompson, Linda Williams, 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

Minister Claire Vail  
Karen Wenger  
Jane Cade  
Rick Strine  
Milton Scott  
Mason Oliver  
Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team  
Mike Reynolds  
Gary & Nora Beck  
Susan Martin  
Ensley Dalen  
Gary Beck  
Arlene Mannlein & Gary Beck



Welcome to everyone here and to those participating on-line

## Announcements

- **Annual Congregation Meeting and Foundation Annual Meeting has moved.** It will be held after worship service on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Communion Aides, Bell Ringers & Acolytes are needed** for March & April. Please contact Karen Reynolds via email [boga1028@yahoo.com](mailto:boga1028@yahoo.com) or call her on 217-874-2013.
- **Girl Scout Cookies are back!!** Ensley Dalen will be selling cookies before & after church beginning the middle of February. Cookies are \$6 a box. Thank you for your support!!
- **The AMELCA Team** served 85 clients on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Grief Group** meets Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am in the Lounge.
- **East Central Conference Leader Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the Lounge and Sanctuary.
- **Personnel Committee** meets at 3:00pm on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. This group can meet in the Lounge if the East Central Conference meeting is finished. Otherwise the Personnel Team can meet in the small conference room in the office.
- **DOVE/RSVP Community Discussion** meets in our Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.
- **Meet, Eat & Greet is scheduled for Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.** The Entrée is Chili. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex to bring a side dish or dessert.
- **FELC Finance Committee** meets on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm via zoom.
- **Foundation Board** meets on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm via zoom.
- **Explore Team** meets on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at FELC in the Lounge.
- **Ash Wednesday Services** will be February 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm and 6:00pm.
- **Mid-week Lent Services** begin Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. The Theme is Baptismal Promise. We will have 2 services each Wednesday during Lent. Lenten Services will be at 12:00pm and a soup supper at 6:00pm followed by Evening Prayer & Homily at 7:00pm.
- **Soup Supper Sign-up sheet** is in the Narthex. We would like 2 people to sign-up to bring soup, 2 to bring bread, & 2 for clean-up.
- **We need Hosts for MEG!** We do not have hosts signed up for our upcoming Meet, Eat & Greet monthly lunches. The church will reimburse you for your expenses. The Sign-up sheet is on the table by the front door. Our next lunch is scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup>. Please consider signing up as a Host. Thank you!!

Let us Prepare our Hearts and Minds for Worship



**Ash Wednesday is February 18**

FELC Worship Service at 12:00pm & 6:00pm

**FELC Midweek Lent Services -**

Wednesdays at 12:00pm

Soup Supper at 6:00pm

7:00pm Evening Prayer with Short Homily  
on February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25  
(Theme: Baptismal Promise)

**Five Sundays in Lent**

February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22