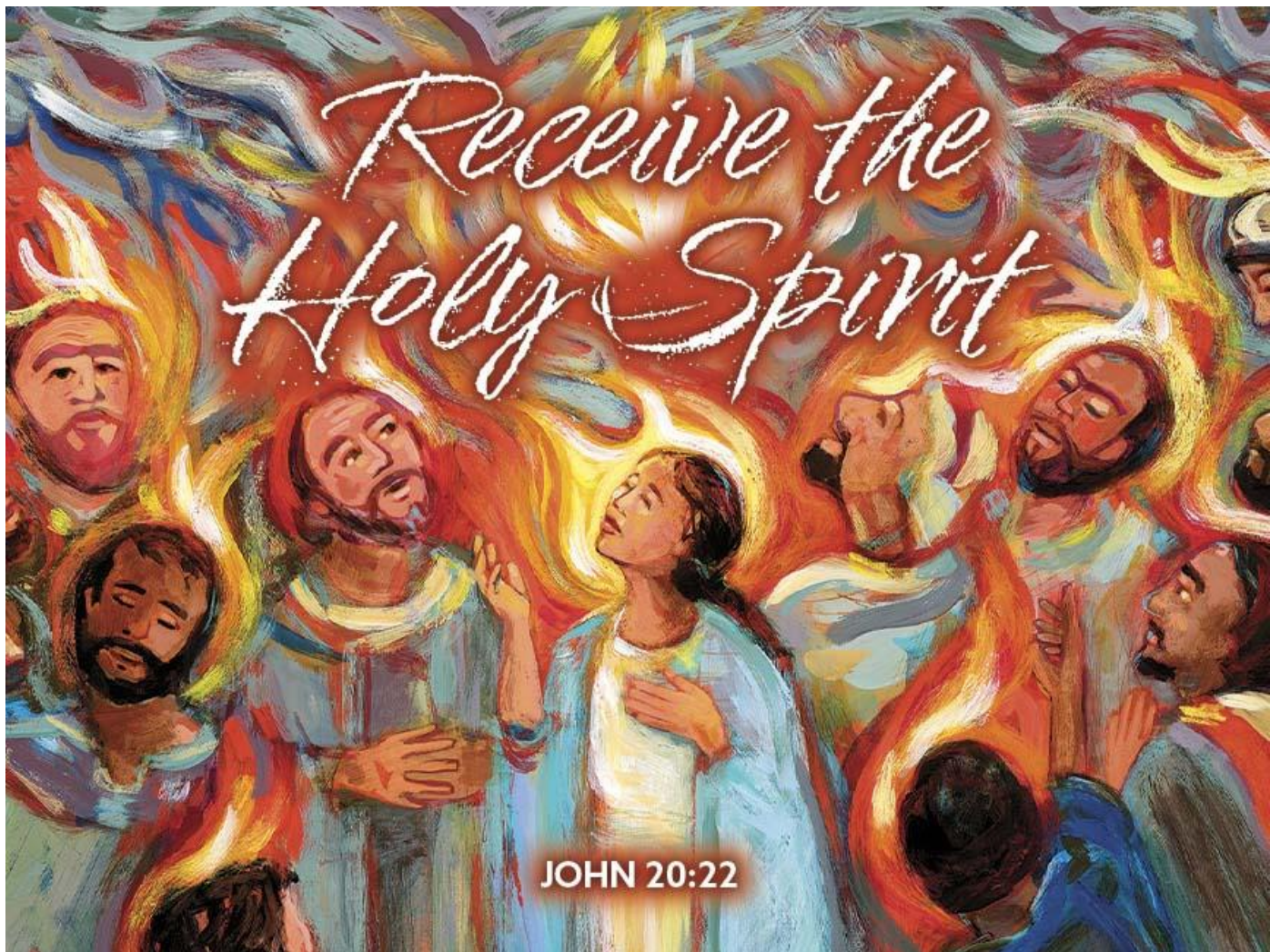


**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 W. Decatur St.
Decatur, Illinois
(217) 423-7783**

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

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



**May 24, 2026, at 9:30am
Pentecost
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

INTRODUCTION

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

P: Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.
C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.
C: Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

“Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”

ELW #398

- 1 Holy Spirit, truth divine,
dawn upon this soul of mine;
breath of God and inward light,
wake my spirit, clear my sight.**
- 2 Holy Spirit, love divine,
glow within this heart of mine;
kindle ev'ry high desire;
purge me with your holy fire.**
- 3 Holy Spirit, pow'r divine,
fortify this will of mine;
by your will I strongly live,
bravely bear, and nobly strive.**
- 4 Holy Spirit, peace divine,
still this restless heart of mine;
speak to calm this tossing sea,
stayed in your tranquility.**
- 5 Holy Spirit, right divine,
king within my conscience reign;
be my guide, and I shall be
firmly bound, forever free.**

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.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

“This is the Feast”

ELW p. 140-141

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

C: **O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

WORD

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ’s resurrection.

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow

Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

²⁴ How manifold are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ **Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,
living things both small and great.**

²⁶ There go the ships to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

²⁷ **All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.**

²⁸ You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

²⁹ **When you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

³⁰ You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.

³¹ **May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

³² You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

³³ **I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being.**
³⁴ May these words of mine please God.
I will rejoice in the LORD.
^{35b} **Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.

^{3b} No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Alleluia”

ELW p. 142

P: The holy gospel according to John the 20th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 20:19-23

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"* **ELW #403**

**1 Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**2 To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the vine,
to the church in faith assembled,
to our midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**3 With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

***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: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

A: O God, you send the Holy Spirit to gather your church into one. Inspire all ministers of the gospel to speak prophetic and hope-filled words to all whom they encounter. Bless the work of interreligious dialogue. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You send the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Protect all living things, bring forth clean water and abundant food, and grant us wonder as we contemplate all you have made. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You send the Holy Spirit to break down the barriers of communication among nations. Bestow peace in war-torn areas, guide all in government and society to work for justice, and guard those serving in the armed forces, especially this weekend as we remember those who died in service to their country. We pray for peace in the Middle East and Ukraine. Send wisdom to our leaders that they may strive for peace and justice in all the world. Guard and protect those serving in the armed forces. Comfort the families who have lost loved ones in conflict. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You send the Holy Spirit to accompany those who feel abandoned. Provide food for those who hunger and drink for those who thirst, soothe those who are anxious or bereaved, comfort those who are sick or suffering, and answer all who call upon your name. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You send the Holy Spirit through the gift of baptism. Bless both those preparing for or affirming their baptism. May they be encouraged by this community of faith as they live out their baptismal promises. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You send the Holy Spirit to console us in our grief. We give you thanks for our ancestors in the faith whose witness to your mighty works continues to inspire our lives. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

***PEACE**

MEAL

OFFERING

(We thank you for your time, talent, and treasure toward ministry at FELC and beyond. Please place your donation in the offering basket at the back of church, or on-line at <https://felcdecatur.org/give>, or by mail.)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful God,

C: accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus, 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.
Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
you pour out the fire of your Spirit,
uniting in one body people of ev'ry nation and tongue.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 144

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: We give you thanks, Father,
through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
whom you sent in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,
through whom you created all things,
and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot
and was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
he stretched out his hands in suffering
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
we take this bread and cup,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;

through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 145

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

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).

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Holy One,

**C: through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.**

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

*BLESSING

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

“O Day Full of Grace”

ELW #627

- 1 O day full of grace that now we see
appearing on earth's horizon,
bring light from our God that we may be
abundant in joy this season.
God, shine for us now in this dark place;
your name on our hearts emblazon.
- 2 O day full of grace, O blessed time,
our Lord on the earth arriving;
then came to the world that light sublime,
great joy for us all retrieving;
for Jesus all mortals did embrace,
all shame and despair removing.
- 3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own,
when he on the cross was hanging;
and then he arose and moved the stone,
that we, unto him belonging,
might join with angelic hosts to raise
our voices in endless singing.
- 4 God came to us then at Pentecost,
the Spirit new life revealing,
that we might no more in death be lost,
its pow'r over us dispelling.
This flame will the mark of sin efface
and bring to us all true healing.

**5 When we on that final journey go
that Christ is for us preparing,
we'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,
all joy of the heavens sharing,
and there we will join God's endless praise,
with angels and saints adoring.**

Text: Scandinavian folk hymn; tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921-2001, alt.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!!

C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Prayer Requests

Barb Ahlenius, Matt Andrews & Family, Tom Bilyeu, Leon Bolin,
Peg Books, Mary Broomfield, Don David Collins, Jeanie Dennis,
Darlene Ducharme, Bill Fitzgerald, Dennis Gregory, Esther Gregory,
Jan Lawson, Sharon Lindeman, RuthAnn & Don Ruby, Sebastian (Bass) Smallwood,
Mary Ann Stolley, Ken Stolley, Rick Strine, Mary Wolf, 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	Minister Claire Vail
Assisting Minister	Larry Osborne
Slides	Ruth Nihiser
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	Mike & Karen Reynolds
Check-In	Susan Martin & Marsha Corley
Acolyte	Ensley Dalen
Communion Aide	
Money Counters	Jim & Judy Oettel and Gary & Carolyn Likins
Flowers	Terri & Galen Arnold Celebrating their 41 st Anniversary
Indoor Plant Watering	Carolyn Likins

Announcements

- **The Church Office will be closed Monday, May 25th** for Memorial Day Holiday.
- Due to the office being closed on Monday, **Money Counters** will need to count on Wednesday, May 27th.
- **Meals on Wheels** volunteers are needed to deliver meals Tuesday, May 26th – Friday, May 29th. Please contact Judy Carney if you are available to participate with delivering meals; below is Judy's contact information:
 - Home#: 217-429-0547
 - Cell#: 217-454-3901
 - Email: jcarney329@comcast.net
- **The AMELCA Team** served 89 clients on Wednesday May 20th.
- Our **Grief Group** and **Art Workshop** are taking a break for the summer. Pastor Sarah will coordinate with the Grief Group when to resume. Art Workshop will resume on September 17th.
- **Council has approved for another AA group** to meet at FELC. This second AA group will meet once a week on Thursdays at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our first AA group will continue to meet 7 days a week in the Fellowship Hall.

- A message from the Call Committee
We thank all the members of FELC for the unanimous vote to call Pastor Sarah Cordray to be our next pastor. We feel that Pastor Sarah will help us grow in spirit, in mission and in service. Time will go by quickly and soon (before we realize it) Pr. Sarah will become a part of our family. We continue to ask for your prayers as we assist Pr. Sarah and family as they relocate to Decatur. We can all benefit from the words of the Gospel of John in Chapter 14, verse 1: Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God. We look forward to Pr. Sarah's arrival in Decatur and her installation as our pastor.
- **Pastor Sarah Cordray** is expected to begin at FELC the week of August 17th. Her Installation is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th.

Upcoming Joint Events & Worship Services

- We will **not** have Joint Worship Service on May 31st, the fifth Sunday in May
- **June 6th is C/SIS Synod Assembly** from 9:00am – 3:00pm via on-line meeting. Voting members can gather together or separately, depending on what your group has decided. HC voting members will meet at HC for the day.
- **July 12th will be Joint Worship Service and Outdoor BBQ/picnic at Holy Cross.** Claire is chairperson for food coordination, so more info will be available in the upcoming weeks.
- **Vacation Bible School will be August 3rd – 7th from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at Holy Cross.** It is a little different this year having VBS in the evening, but we are hoping to secure a few more volunteers within that timeframe.
- **August 30th will be Joint Worship Service at FELC**
- September 13th is typically the Sunday to celebrate “**God’s Work our Hands**”. A specific date has not been determined, but an event will likely be organized around that timeframe.
- **September 19th is the WELCA Fall Gathering** held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Decatur. Last year the event was in Champaign and we had 90 women attend the event; several from FELC and HC attended. With the event being held in Decatur, we hope to see more FELC & HC attendees. The WELCA group will send out additional information this summer.
- **October 4th is the East Central Conference ‘Synod Day’.** This is a follow-up to our June 6th C/SIS Synod Assembly. Our C/SIS Synod Office will have a variety of events. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- **October 31st ‘Trunk ‘r Treat’** event at Holy Cross. This will be a joint event with FELC and HC.