


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



**As you go,
proclaim the
good news**

MATTHEW 10:7

**June 14, 2026, at 9:30am
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

INTRODUCTION

Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

- 1 Spread, oh, spread, almighty Word,
spread the reign of God the Lord.
Send forth our Creator's call,
heaven's gifts extend to all.**

- 2 Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
who, to save our human race
and to pay rebellion's price,
gave himself as sacrifice.**

- 3 Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
now to guide us on to heav'n,
strong and holy, just and true,
working both to will and do.**

- 4 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
rouse to action heart and mind;
let the gath'ring nations all
see your light and heed your call.**

Text: Jonathan F. Bahnmaier, 1774-1841; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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: God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

First Reading: Exodus 19:2-8a

At Sinai God assured Israel, "You shall be my treasured possession," and commissioned them to serve as mediating priests for the nations. The people commit themselves completely to God's will.

² The Israelites journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.³ Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: ⁴ 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶ but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

⁷ So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ^{8a} The people all answered as one, "Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do."

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 100

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!

² Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.

³ **Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

⁴ Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;
give thanks and bless God's holy name.

⁵ **Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-8

We are no longer God's enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ's death.

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Alléluia”

ELW p. 142

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew the 9th Chapter.

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

Gospel: Matthew 9:35—10:23

The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.

³⁵ Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness.

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

^{10:1} Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸ Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse the lepers; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹ Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ If the house is worthy,

let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶ “I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles. ¹⁹ When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time, ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in this town, flee to the next, for truly I tell you, you will not have finished going through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“In Christ Called to Baptize”

ELW #575

- 1 In Christ called to baptize,
we witness to grace
and gather a people
from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters,
we share in Christ's death,
then, rising to new life,
give thanks with each breath.**

- 2 In Christ called to banquet,
one table we share,
a haven of welcome,
a circle of care.
Although we are many,
we share in one bread.
One cup of thanksgiving
proclaims Christ, our head.**

**3 In Christ called to witness,
by grace we will preach
the life-giving gospel;
God's love we will teach.
By grace may our living
give proof to our praise
in costly compassion
reflecting Christ's ways.**

**4 Unite us, anoint us,
O Spirit of love,
for you are within us,
around us, above.
Equip us for service
with gifts you bestow.
In Christ is our calling.
In Christ may we grow.**

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Text © 1995 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

***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 together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

A: God of freedom, you ransomed Israel from slavery to be a holy people. As we observe Juneteenth this coming week, free us also to be a people who proclaim your liberating love. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of creation, you call all the earth to make a joyful noise to you. Let us join the chorus of the natural world in proclaiming your glory. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of the nations, you sent Jesus as peace for all of humankind. Bring an end to war and conflict, bring hope to places devastated by destruction, and sustain those who advocate for peace. 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. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of grace, you pour hope and love into our hearts in times of shame and doubt. Protect those experiencing housing insecurity. Uplift anyone struggling with hopelessness, illness, or other worries. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of all, you call your children to serve in a plentiful harvest. Give us the wisdom to know how best to serve our local community and our neighbors. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of faith, we give thanks for the saints who earnestly seek you. Guide us as we seek to follow those who have led your church. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our 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://felcdecatour.org/give>, or by mail.)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Loving God,

C: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us 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.

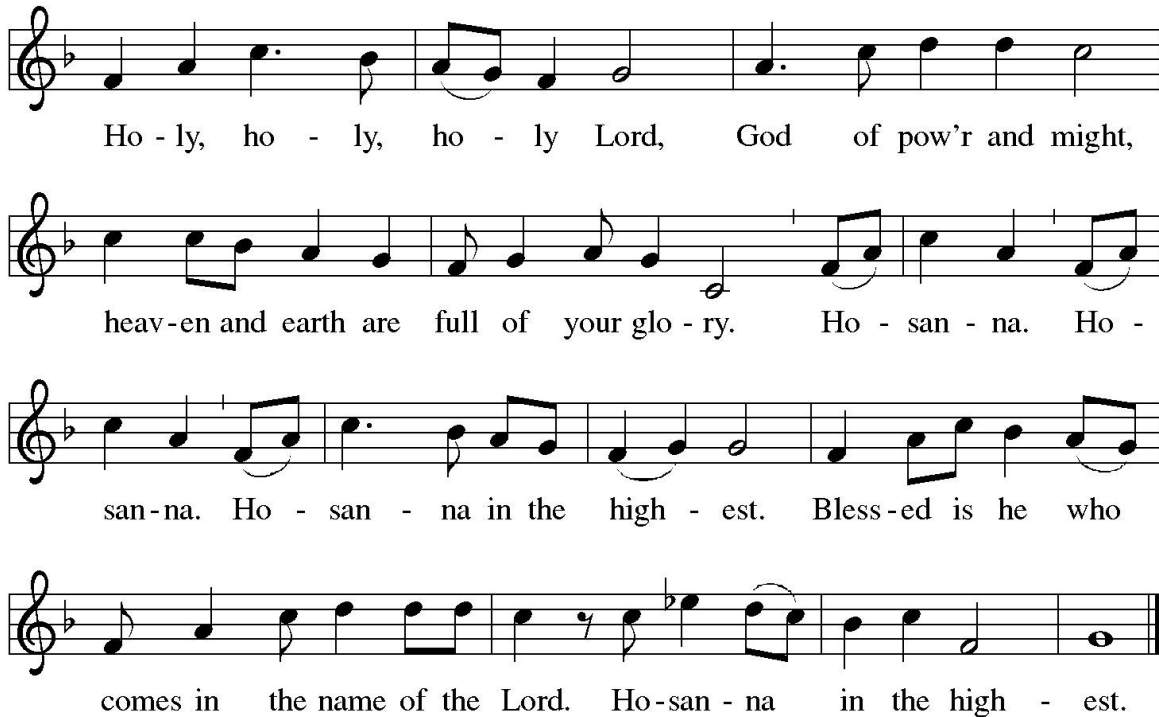
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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.

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:



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: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 145

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

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: Compassionate God,

**C: through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

***BLESSING**

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✝ one God, bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

ELW #661

**1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.**

Refrain

**I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.**

**2 I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word. *Refrain***

**3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. *Refrain***

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

***DISMISSAL**

A: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Minister Claire Vail
Assisting Minister	Karen Wenger
Slides	Larry Osborne
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Choir Director	Milton Scott
Technical Director	Mason Oliver
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Steve Wenger
Greeter	Cheryl Wallace
Check-In	Bob & Carol Tyler
Acolyte	Gemma Berry
Communion Aide	Jane Cade
Money Counters	Karen & Steve Wenger and Carol & Ken Broeking
Flowers	Bob & Carol Tyler
Indoor Plant Watering	Nora Beck

Prayer Requests

Barb Ahlenius, Matt Andrews & Family, Tom Bilyeu, Leon Bolin, Peg Books, Mary Broomfield, Don David Collins, Jeanie Dennis, Bill Fitzgerrel, Esther Gregory, Jan Lawson, Sharon Lindeman, Marilyn Oftedal, RuthAnn & Don Ruby, Sebastian (Bass) Smallwood, 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*

Announcements

- **The AMELCA Team** served 77 clients on Wednesday June 10th.
- **We are collecting donations today for our service project at our Joint Worship on July 12th.** Envelopes are in your bulletin. Please see below for additional details.
- **The church office is closed on Friday, June 19th for the Juneteenth Holiday.**
- **Terry Shield's book *The Purpose of Everything – God's Promises to God's People*** (volume 2) is available for discounted purchase through FELC. And ***GOOD NEWS***, the publisher has reduced the retail price of Terry's books!! FELC will still discount \$10 for any book ordered via the church. Updated order forms are on the table by the front door. Your cost would be \$24.99 for Paperback and \$37.99 for Hardcover. Please leave your completed form and check (payable to FELC) in the church office by June 30th.
- **Grief Group** meets Monday, June 15th at 11:00am in the Lounge. After this meeting, Grief Group will take a summer break.
- **AA Love's Home Group** meets Thursday, June 18th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **AA Back to Basics** meets 7 days a week in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Pastor Sarah Cordray** is expected to begin at FELC the week of August 17th. Her first day in the office will be Tuesday, August 18th. Her Installation is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th.

Upcoming Joint Events & Worship Services

- **Join us on July 12th for our Joint Worship Service and picnic at Holy Cross.** Grilled Brats & Hot Dogs will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The meal will be served indoors in the fellowship hall. In addition to worship and food, there will be games (with prizes) and a service project for all ages to enjoy. Envelopes for contributions toward supplies for the service project are in your Sunday bulletin. Weather permitting, worship and games will be held outdoors, so please bring a lawn chair. Please note that some of the children's games may include water activities. We look forward to a wonderful day of worship, fellowship, service, and fun!!
- **July 23rd Explore Team meeting** at Holy Cross at 5:30pm.
- **Vacation Bible School will be August 3rd – 7th** from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at Holy Cross. The theme is Rainforest Falls. VBS in the evening is a little different this year because we are hoping to secure a few more volunteers.
- **August 30th will be Joint Worship Service at FELC.** We will schedule a service project for “**God’s Work our Hands**”.
- **September 13th is Pastor Sarah Cordray’s installation.** Bishop Greg Busboom will join us and Holy Cross is invited to join in with the celebration.
- **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’.** It will be held in Champaign at Grace Lutheran Church, 313 S. Prospect Ave. 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.
- **Friday, October 30th ‘Trunk ‘r Treat’** event at Holy Cross. This will be a joint event with FELC and HC.