

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

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Email: felc_decatur@outlook.com**

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

**All ate and
were filled**

MATTHEW 14:20



**August 2, 2026, at 9:30am
HOLY COMMUNION**

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

INTRODUCTION

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for 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 O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,
the fount of life, the light of all:
from ev'ry bliss that earth imparts
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.**
- 2 We taste you, ever-living bread,
and long to feast upon you still;
we drink of you, the fountainhead;
our thirsting souls from you we fill.**
- 3 For you our restless spirits yearn,
where'er our changing lot is cast;
glad, when your smile on us you turn,
blest, when by faith we hold you fast.**
- 4 O Jesus, ever with us stay!
Make all our moments fair and bright!
Oh, chase the night of sin away!
Shed o'er the world your holy light.**

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808-1887, alt.

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.



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray,

C: Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts;
 come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
 and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
⁹ **LORD, you are good to all,
 and your compassion is over all your works.**
¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall
 and lifts up those who are bowed down.
¹⁵ **The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD,
 and you give them their food in due season.**
¹⁶ You open wide your hand
 and satisfy the desire of every living thing.
¹⁷ **You are righteous in all your ways
 and loving in all your works.**
¹⁸ You are near to all who call upon you,
 to all who call upon you faithfully.
¹⁹ **You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;
 you hear their cry and save them.**

²⁰ You watch over all those who love you,
but all the wicked you shall destroy.

²¹ **My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-15

This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.

¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit ² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

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 14th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard about the beheading of John the Baptist, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They replied, “We have

nothing here but five loaves and two fish.”¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.”¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

ELW #515

- 1 Break now the bread of life,
dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page
I seek you, Lord;
my spirit waits for you,
O living Word.**
- 2 Bless your own word of truth,
dear Lord, to me,
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease,
all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace,
my All-in-All!**
- 3 You are the bread of life,
dear Lord, to me,
your holy word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live
with you above;
teach me to love your truth,
for you are love.**

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841-1913, alt.

***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: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A: For your church in every place, that it satisfies those who hunger for your word. Bless the ministry of readers, translators, Bible study leaders, and writers, that God's word is broken open and shared with all. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For your wondrous creation and all the bounty it provides, that your creatures are fed and nourished. Bless the work of farmers, farmworkers, those who fish, and all whose labor brings your abundance to our tables. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For your children in every nation, that they learn to love justice and live in harmony. As this week we remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, keep us mindful of the horrors of war; draw our hearts instead toward your reign of love, hope, and 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. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For all who cry out with great sorrow and unceasing anguish, that they are comforted. Feed all who struggle with food insecurity; have mercy on all who are suffering in body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For this congregation, that it bears faithful witness to the abundance and joy of life in you. Bless all your faithful people gathered here, that they may become blessings for this community. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: With thanksgiving for the faithful who now rest in your mercy, that their witness continues to inspire the church. By their example, may we trust your promises in life and in death. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: 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:

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: 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.

*EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

P: In the name of God:

C: We send you forth with Word and Sacrament to our homebound,

that they may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread,

one cup in Christ Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

***BLESSING**

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✝ one God, bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

ELW #674

**1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

Refrain

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *Refrain***

**3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain***

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

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***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	SAM, Marcia Buchs
Assisting Minister	Marty Brilley
Slides	Jim Oettel
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Choir Director	Milton Scott
Technical Director	Mason Oliver
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	John Malachowski
Greeter	Tami & Bruce Cannon
Check-In	Marcia Corley & Kris Sites
Acolyte	Gemma Berry
Communion Aide	Carol Tyler
Money Counters	Gary Beck, Larry Haab, Sheryl Brilley
Indoor Plant Watering	Karen Wenger

Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews & Family, Peg Books, Tonya Deberry,
Bill Fitzgerrel, Scott Geiger, David Goldsborough, Esther Gregory,
Jan Lawson, Marilyn Oftedal, Sebastian (Bass) Smallwood, Mary Ann & Ken Stolley,
Rick Strine, Kay Wolken, and former FELC Pastor Rich Wolf

*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.*

Upcoming Joint Events & Worship Services

- **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**”. Please see the progress poster that is displayed in the Narthex!
- **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 at Grace Lutheran Church, 313 S. Prospect Ave., Champaign from 2:00pm-7:00pm. This is a follow-up to our June 6th C/SIS Synod Assembly. Our C/SIS Synod Office will have a variety of events including Cross-generational worship, Activities for children & families, Shared meal, State of the synod video, Q&A with the synod staff, Mission moments from each conference, & Four “Spirit Labs” workshop options: *The Foolishness of Trying to Save Your Church: Letting Go So We Can Go!* (Led by Bishop Greg Busboom); *Jesus Journeys and Faithful Field Trips* (Led by Deacon Jason Fisher); *Body Building with Love: Tools for Adaptability* (Led by Pastor Kristen Schmid); *Here I Am, Send Me!: A Vocational Workshop* (Led by Pastor Amy Zietlow). Register online at CSIS-ELCA.org/synoddays26. The cost is \$10 per Adult (18 and over) and \$5 for youth (3-17). Registration closes on September 28.
- **Friday, October 30th ‘Trunk ‘r Treat’** event at Holy Cross. This will be a joint event with FELC and HC.

Announcements

Tech Ministry Update

We extend our sincere thanks to Mason Oliver for his faithful service as our Tech Manager. As Mason returns to continue his education toward a law degree at the University of Illinois, we wish him God's blessings and every success in this next chapter.

At the same time, we are pleased to welcome Lucas Reynolds as our new Tech Manager. Lucas has faithfully served as our Tech Assistant, and we are excited to see him step into this new leadership role. Please join us in thanking Mason and congratulating Lucas!

- The AMELCA Team served **126 clients** on **Wednesday, July 29**.
- **Book Study** meets in the Lounge on **Monday, August 3**, at **12:30 p.m.**
- **God Work Our Hands is August 30th**. We are having a joint worship with Holy Cross, and we are working on a service project. Please see the progress poster in the Narthex for details.
- **Meals on Wheels** volunteers are needed to deliver meals Monday, August 31st - Friday, September 4th. Please contact Judy Carney if you are available to deliver meals. Below is Judy's contact information
Home: **217-429-0547**
Cell: **217-454-3901**
Email: **jcarney329@comcast.net**
- **Kay is out of the office** recovering from knee replacement surgery. Office hours will be limited. Please use your building key for entrance to the church.
- **Dove Inc. "Evening of Hope"** – FELC has a table reserved for this fundraiser/dinner event. We have a few free tickets still available, see Marty Brilley for details **217-521-2538**
- **AA Love's Home Group** meets Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- **AA Back to Basics** meets **daily** in the Fellowship Hall:
 - Monday–Friday: **7:30–9:15 a.m.**
 - Sunday: **6:00–7:00 p.m.**
- **Pastor Sarah Cordray** is expected to begin at FELC the week of **August 17**. Her first day in the office will be **Tuesday, August 18**. She will lead worship for the first time on **Sunday, August 23**, and her **Service of Installation** is scheduled for **Sunday, September 13**.