First Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Decatur, Illinois
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We have a livestream option on our website!
https://felcdecatur.org/live



November 8, 2026, at 9:30am
HOLY COMMUNION

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

INTRODUCTION
As we wait for the promise of our bridegroom Christ to return, our hearts are taken into a depth of trust in God's timing. This depth of trust takes our lamp and fills us so we may wait purposely knowing God has called us to live purposely "letting our light so shine before others that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven."

WELCOME

PRELUDE *"America, My Country Tis of Thee"* **Arr. Lendt**
"Eternal Father, Strong to Save" **Arr. Lendt**

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, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,
C: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ✠ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
C: Amen.

***GATHERING SONG** *"Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand"* **ELW #441**

**1 Oh, happy day when we shall stand amid the heav'nly throng;
and sing with hosts from ev'ry land the new celestial song,
the new celestial song.**

**2 Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come and show himself as Lord,
and thousands meet in their new home which Jesus has prepared,
which Jesus has prepared.**

**3 Oh, what a mighty rushing flood of joy and love and peace
will roll down over us with good and blessedness and grace,
and blessedness and grace.**

**4 O Lord, your grace is ev'rything; your love has made us free
to stand among the saints and sing the glory that we see,
the glory that we see.**

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797-1866; tr. composite
Text st. 1 © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Text sts. 2-4 © 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**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C: Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** *"This Is The Feast"* **ELW p. 140-141**

**C: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

C: Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

C: Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

C: For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray,

C: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

A: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 70

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

ANTHEM *"Adoramus"* **Christe**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

[17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *"Alléluia"* **ELW p. 142**

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the 25th Chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13
Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

Jesus said to the disciples: [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the

! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON – "Wise Waiting"

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"* **ELW #436**

1 Wake, awake, for night is flying, the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices, and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake; your lamps with gladness take!"
Alleluia!
Rise and prepare the feast to share; go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing, and all her heart with joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
Her dear friend comes down, all glorious, the strong in grace, in truth victorious:
her star is ris'n; her light is come.
Now come, O Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son.
Sing hosanna!
Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all, and follow to the banquet hall.

3 Gloria! Let heav'n adore you!
Let saints and angels sing before you, with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming, lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,
with angel choirs around your throne.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thund'ring might
of such glory.
There we will go: what joy we'll know! There sweet delight will ever flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

***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

***PEACE**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.
A brief silence.

P: God, we praise you Lord …. God in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
C: Amen.

MEAL

OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING *"Hymn of Thanksgiving"* **Arr. Shaw**

(*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: Eternal God,
**C: our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through 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.
Who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY **ELW p. 144**

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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…
C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER **ELW p. 145**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
P: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

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 *" O Welt, ich muss dich lassen* **Arr. Shaw**

COMMUNION *"Lamb of God"* **ELW p. 146**

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Holy God,
C: we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out,
awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

***BLESSING FOR OUR VETERANS**

P: Almighty God, we thank You for the courage, sacrifice, and service of our veterans. As we leave this place, surround them and their families with Your peace, strength, and lasting comfort. Grant us hearts of deep gratitude, and send us forth to be makers of the peace they worked so hard to protect. In Your holy name we pray.
C: Amen.

***BLESSING**

P: The holy Trinity, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.
C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** *"Soon and Very Soon"* **ELW #439**

1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

2 No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

3 No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Text: Andrae Crouch, b. 1945
Music: Andrae Crouch
Text and music © 1976 Bad John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin.EMI Christian Music Publishing

***DISMISSAL**
A: Go in peace praying constantly, serving joyfully, and telling the story of Christ!
C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE** *"God Bless America"* **Arr. Wolfe**

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AMELCA THANKSGIVING BASKETS

You are invited to make a donation toward building Thanksgiving Baskets that will be handed out on Wednesday, November 25th.

Listed below are items the AMELCA Team will use to build the basket. Please consider donating an item or two or making a monetary donation.

All donations are appreciated!!

• Can of Fruit	• Box of Stuffing Mix
• Can of Sweet Potatoes	• Box of Instant Potatoes
• Can of Cranberry Sauce	• Box of Mac ‘n Cheese
• Can of Green Beans	• Box of Jello
• Can of Corn	• Box of Dessert Mix

Participants

Presiding and Preaching	Rev. Dr. Sarah Cordray
Assisting Minister	Terri Arnold
Slides	Galen Arnold
Organist/Bell Choir Director	Rick Strine
Choir Director	Milton Scott
Decatur Area Horn Club	Gina Coonrad
	Steve Craven
	Kayla Daugherty
	Dick Dickinson
	Jaime Escatel
	Randy Langellier
	Brian Lauthen
	George Osborn
	Steve Schepper
Technical Director	Lucas Reynolds
Audio/Visual	Abbey Jordan & Audio/Visual Team
Bell Ringer	Mike Reynolds
Greeter	Jeff Kopetz
Altar Guild/Check-In	Carol Broeking & Pat Dalen
Acolyte	Ensley Dalen
Communion Aide	Karen Reynolds
Money Counters	Judy & Bob Carney and Mike Corley
Indoor Plant Watering	Pat Dalen
Flowers	Lee Flower Memorial
SonRise Café	Harvest Potluck

Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews & Family, Nora Beck, Peg Books, Mary Broomfield,
Bill & Sandy Fitzgerrel, Scott Geiger, Esther Gregory, Jan Lawson,
Suzanne Murphy, Dale Pelz (Brother of Nancy Salefski),
Sebastian (Bass) Smallwood, Mary Ann & Ken Stolley, Rick Strine

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

- **Sunday, November 29th is joint Worship Service** at Holy Cross. Worship service will begin at 9:30am and there will be fellowship following Worship. All are welcome!!!

FELC Announcements

- **Decatur Area Horn Club** will be playing during Worship Service this morning.
- Today Our **Youth** will be collecting a **Noisy Offering** during worship service. Our Youth will collect a Noisy Offering the 2nd Sunday each month from now through April 2027.
- **Harvest Fest Potluck** is after Worship Service in the fellowship hall.
- The **AMELCA** Team served 113 clients on Wednesday, November 4th.
- **Book Study** meets Monday, November 9th at 12:15pm in the Lounge.
- **Exec** meets Monday, November 9th at 6:00pm.
- The **church office is closed Wednesday, November 11th** for **Veteran's Day.**
- **Finance** meets Thursday, November 12th at 3pm via Zoom.
- **Foundation** meets Thursday, November 12th at 5:30pm via Zoom
- You are invited to donate an item or two or make a monetary donation for **AMELCA Thanksgiving Baskets**. Baskets will be handed out on Wednesday, November 25th. Non-perishable Basket donations can be put in the AMELCA box in the Narthex. Monetary donations can me placed in the offering basket at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you for your donation!!

- Gunny Bear is inviting you to make a donation of a **new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.** During November, collection boxes will be here at FELC in the narthex and also by the lower door. Please see Bob or Carol Tyler with questions.

- The **church office will be closed every Tuesday and Friday through the end of the year.** Kay is still going to physical therapy a couple times a week and will be taking vacation time on those days.

- **Christmas Tree Assembly is after worship service on Sunday, November 22nd.** We need MANY volunteers to assemble and decorate the tree. Pizza will be served to all the volunteers.

- The **church office is closed Thursday & Friday,** November 26th & 27th for the **Thanksgiving Holiday.**

- **Baby Jesus Christmas Donations** will begin Sunday, November 29th through Sunday, December 20th. Newborn items, including onesies, booties, receiving blankets, and especially diapers can be dropped off in the narthex. All items will be made available to local family agencies. See Jane Cade or Denise Troester with questions.

- You are invited to a **Wassail Party on Sunday, December 6th** from 1:00pm-3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall at FELC. There will be festive food and music of the season. All are welcome to join the fun!!!

- **Children's Christmas Program will take place during worship service on Sunday, December 13th.** And we will celebrate with SonRise Café after worship service.

- **Christmas Tree take down will be Sunday, January 10th,** after worship service. MANY volunteers are needed to assist with taking down the decorations and tree.

- **Our Grief Group** will resume meeting on January 11th, 2027. This group meets every other Monday from 11:00am-12:30pm in the Lounge.

- **Annual Congregational Meeting and Annual Foundation Meeting will be held after worship service on Sunday, January 31st.** All voting members are encouraged to attend. Your vote counts!!