Sunday, November 29, 2026
First Sunday in Advent
Word & Eucharist
10 AM - onsite & online



First English Lutheran Church

God Loves. We Love. Everyone!
Dios Ama. Amamos. Todos!

3001 Whitis Avenue
Austin, Texas 78705
info@felcaustin.org
512.478.1933 church

Welcome

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church (FELC). We are a congregation of the Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are a community in and of the city where all are welcome in every aspect of congregational life. Following the example of Christ, we welcome you exactly as you are.

FELC is committed to the work of racial equity, justice, and advocating for marginalized groups. We welcome people in all places on the journey of faith and life. We celebrate differences in age, appearance, economic status, ethnic origin, nationality, race, family configuration, marital or relationship status, political leaning, religious background, and those who are differently-abled physically or mentally. Since 1989, FELC has openly welcomed persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions to full participation in the church and society. To learn more, visit www.felcaustin.org.

Accessibility

All Gender Restrooms, with infant changing tables, are located in the hallway off of the sanctuary (main worship area) near the fellowship hall. **Hearing assistance devices** are available for use in the sanctuary, with two options: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids. Connect with the minister for a hearing assistance device. **Seat cushions**, for use on the wood pews are available in the narthex (main entrance area).

Liturgy

Worship and adoration of God is at the heart of life for disciples of Jesus. It is in worship that we encounter God, express our belonging, define our identity, and are formed as the people of God. Liturgy is a Greek work translated "the work of the people of God" as we gather. FELC holds the Word and Eucharist ordered framework in the tradition of the whole church, including from early centuries. We utilize various biblical and contemporary images and names for God, Jesus, and humanity. We gather, we receive the Word of God, we give thanks and are nourished by Christ's presence in bread, wine, and blessing, and we are sent to be active images of divine love. The Meal is known by many names: the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, the Mass, the Sacrament, the Eucharist. We celebrate at Christ's table, and all are welcome to receive holy communion no matter your background, faith practice, or curiosity. To learn more about Holy Baptism and discipleship with Jesus, please connect with the pastor.

☩ GATHERING ☩ Advent 1, Year B

The Season of Advent
We announce the presence of God who welcomes us to name our blessings, our hurts, our need for healing, and our hopes for what is to come. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival". The Advent liturgy reflects the mood, color, and themes of Advent, inviting us to enter this time of waiting, preparation, and hope. The primary color blue points toward expectation. The Advent wreath helps us mark time and contemplate patience even as we trust in God to act.

In our call and response, everyone is invited to pray aloud the text in bold print.

The songs and hymns are found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), the red worship book in the pew.

Gathering Music

Singing bowls sound throughout the liturgy, calling us to prayer.

We stand, as able.

The cross moves in procession from the main entrance.

Gathering Song in Procession ***Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*** **| ELW 436**
Text/Music: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608

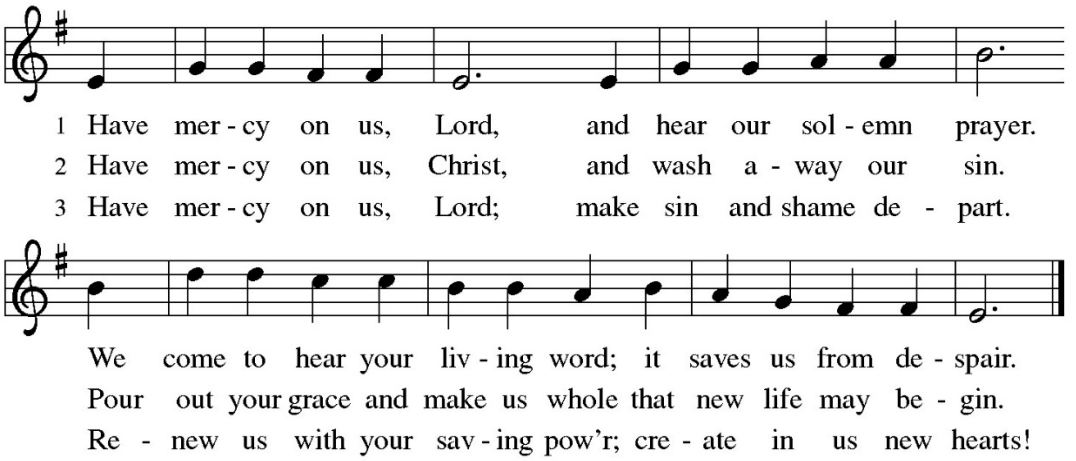
Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the one, ☩ holy, and living God.
Glory to God forever. Amen.

In humility and trust, let us confess our sin.

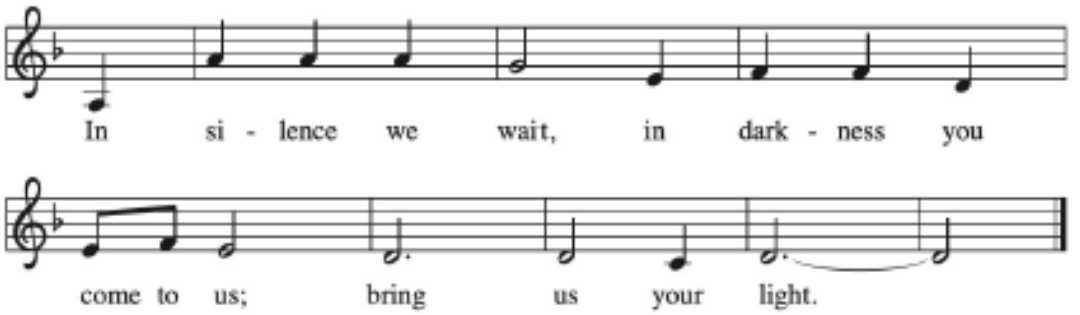
Silence is kept.

Kyrie Text: Nicholas Brady, 1659-1726; Music: Wm. Daman, 1540-1591



May God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sin through the grace of Jesus Christ, ☩ strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Song ***In Silence We Wait***



Text: Susan Masters, b. 1957
Music: IN SILENCE WE WAIT, Susan Masters
Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, loved ones and guests gather for prayers around the wreath.

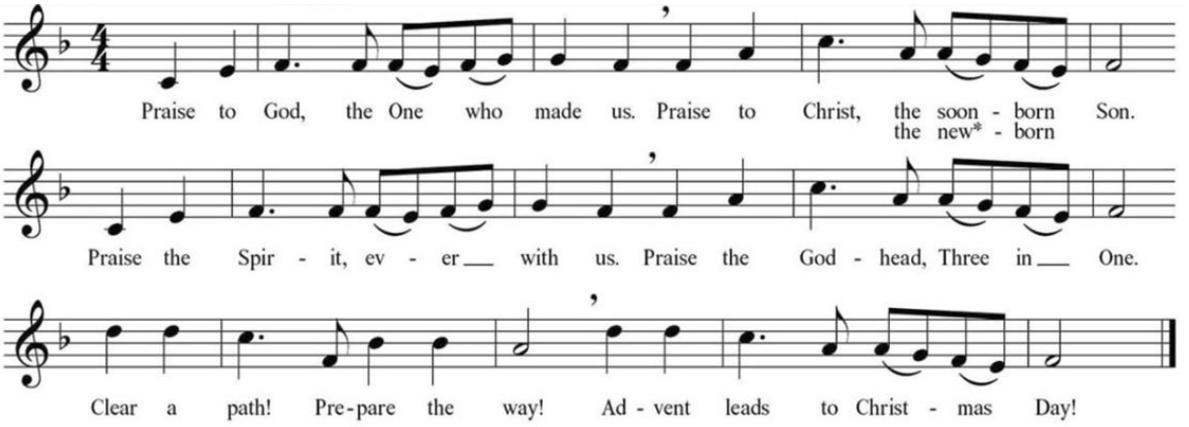
Advent Candle Lighting

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war
into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace;
you promise that our time of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

The first Advent Candle is lighted.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your love, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.
Let us live in the light of the Lord.

Song



Greeting & Prayer of the Day

From the One who was, who is, and who is to come: grace and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of sin and enlighten our lives in the way of your salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Be seated.

Welcome to Community

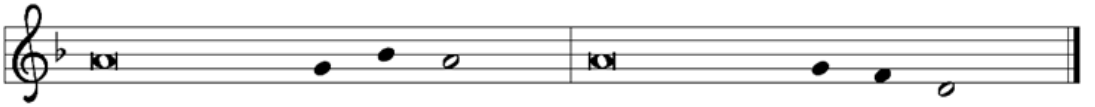
✢ WORD ✢

First Reading **Isaiah 64:1-9**

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains
would quake at your presence—2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes
water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations
might tremble at your presence! 3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not
expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. 4 From ages past
no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who
works for those who wait for him. 5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who
remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid
yourself we transgressed. 6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our
righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like
the wind, take us away. 7 There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take
hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the
hand of our iniquity. 8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are
our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Response **Psalm 80:1-7,17-19**



[1] Hear O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
[2] **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
[3] Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
[4] **O Lord | God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
[5] You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
[6] **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
[7] Restore us O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
[17] **Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
[18] And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
[19] **Restore us O Lord | God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us and we | shall be saved.

Time of Wisdom & Wonder

Children and adults are invited to gather at the baptismal font.

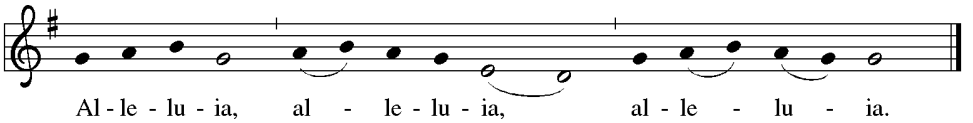
Second Reading **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give
thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given
you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and
knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened
among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of
our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be
blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were
called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

We welcome Christ in the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation ***Alleluia*** Plainsong



Verse: Show us your steadfast | love, O Lord,* and grant us | your salvation. Psalm 85:7

We repeat the Alleluias.

The gospel is announced, ending with: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel **Mark 13:24-37**

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man
coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and
gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of
heaven.

28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts
forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things
taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this
generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and
earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 32 “But about that day or hour
no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father.
33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man
going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his
work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake,
for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at
midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes
suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

We repeat the Alleluias.

Sermon

☩ PRAYER & MEDITATION ☩

We enter a time of meditation. Your individual prayers are invited for the earth; the nations; the poor, ill, oppressed, lonely, unhoused, homebound, imprisoned, bereaved, & joyful; for justice & mercy; for the communities where we live, worship, play, & work; for ourselves, our loved ones & our enemies; & for the sorrows & thanksgivings we bring today. A prayer list is found on page 18.

Music during Prayer ***Savior of the Nations, Come***

Text: Ascribed to Saint Ambrose, 340-397
Music*: Nun komm, der Heiden Heitland;* Arr. Carl Schalk, 1929-2021

Savior of the nations come; Virgin's Son, make here thy home!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh, Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child of the Virgin kind and wild.
Mighty God and man in one, Eager now his race to run.

God the Father is his source, Back to God he runs his course,
Down to death and hell descends, God's high throne he reascends.

Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be, Ever and eternally.

At the conclusion of prayer and meditation, we ask God for courage.

O God, **you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We stand, as able.

Sharing the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all. A**nd also with you.**

We greet each other with gentle signs of reconciliation, peace, and love. This exchange of peace within the gathered community is an ancient Christian practice that builds and renews relationships.

Following sharing Christ's peace, we sit.

✢MEAL✢

Birthday Blessing

Gracious God, our times are in your care**. Bless your people as they live another year of grace. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and joy, and strengthen their trust in your abiding goodness. Amen.**

Welcome to Communion & Offering

Your presence in worship and community is a gift. We reflect on the life God entrusts to us for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. Then we act through God's generosity. Financial gifts may be shared through the offering plate or online at www.felcaustin.org/information/giving.

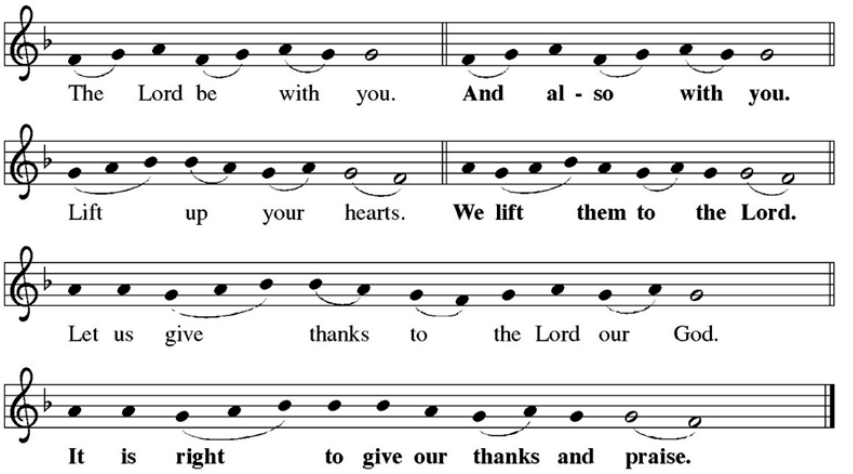
We stand, as bread, wine, money, and other gifts are presented.

Offering Song ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* | ELW 254**
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Offering Prayer

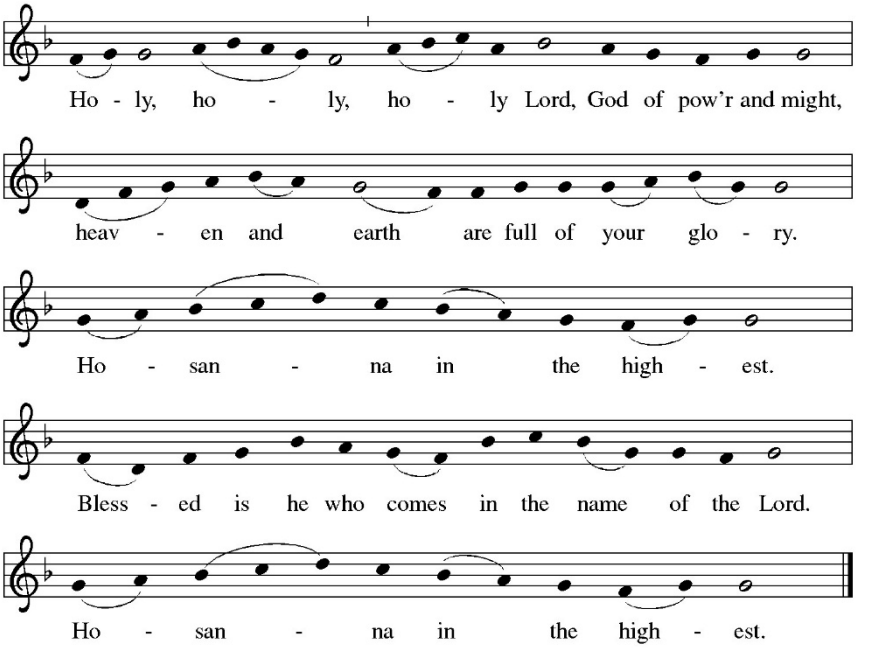
Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving ELW Holy Communion, Setting 5, Plainsong



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy… join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



Thanksgiving at the Table

The night in which Jesus was at table with his friends, he loved them, and he loved them to the end, and he took bread, and gave thanks to the Father; 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.

We proclaim together the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Holy God, we call on your Spirit. Come among us still. Bless this meal. ☩ May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Overflow your love in us. Bring lasting peace on earth.

All praise and thanks are yours, Holy One of all the Universe, Word of God Incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen!**

Lord's Prayer

As our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray:

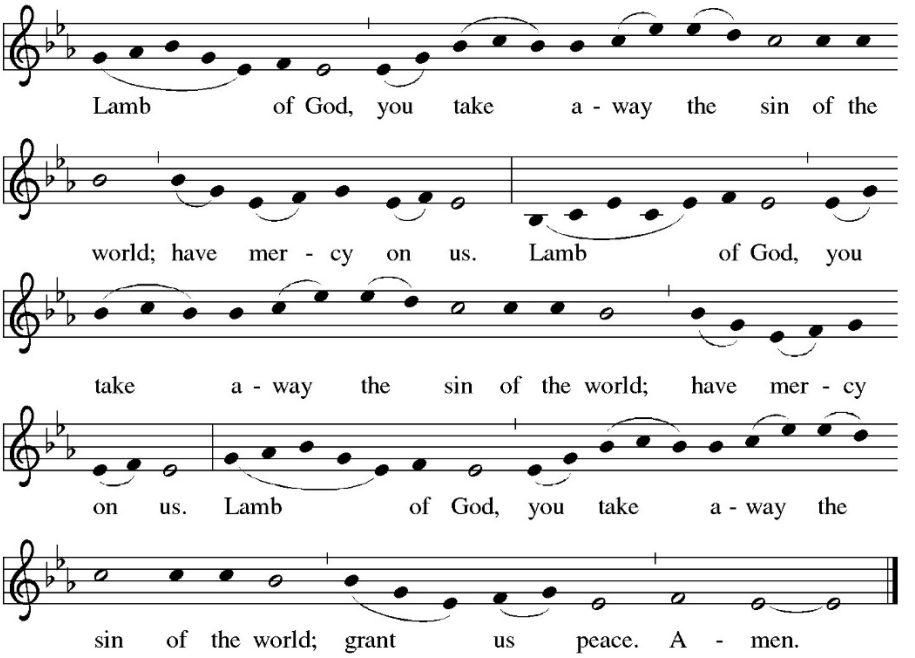
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

We break this bread to be the body of Christ.
We will love one another as Christ loves us.

Be seated.

Song of Response *Lamb of God*



Invitation to Communion & Blessing

This is Christ's table. Christ is the host. All are welcome. We encourage you to participate in ways that are meaningful for you.

For those participating online, a minister will offer the invitation to receive any bread and juice in your home. For those onsite, you will be guided to receive bread in your hand to eat, then receive a small cup, where wine will be poured and consumed. Gluten-free wafers/grape juice are available upon request. If you desire not to receive bread or wine, you are invited to a station to receive a blessing. Return to your seat by a side aisle. If you desire communion or a blessing at your place, let an usher or minister know.

Communion Music

***My Lord, What a Morning* | ELW 448** Text/Music: African American spiritual

***The King Shall Come* | ELW 260** Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925
Music: A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

We are seated as we offer our thanks.

Prayer after Communion

Thank you, gracious God, for refreshing and blessing us with the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us, in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns, now and forever. **Amen.**

✢ SENDING ✢

Welcome to Hospitality

We stand as able.

Sending Song ***Soon and Very Soon* | ELW 439**
Text/Music: Andrae Crouch, 1945-2015

Blessing

May you be sent anywhere God will have you go, knowing God is with you.
May God place upon you any burden and desire, knowing God is with you.
May God break any time that binds you, knowing God is with you;
and the blessing of God, Creating, Redeeming, ✢ and Sustaining,
continue with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal to Mission

Live in peace and prepare the way of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Hospitality Time

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit felcaustin.org to learn more about the FELC faith community. To subscribe to a weekly email newsletter or connect with ministry leaders and staff, contact office@felcaustin.org. If you are new to the FELC community, use the QR code to connect.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY | DECEMBER 2, 9, 16

Advent Bible Study meets in the Library December 2, 9, & 16 at 5:30 pm with Pastor Katie. We are exploring the encounters with Angels that are part of the Savior's birth narrative.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION | DECEMBER | 9 AM

Dec. 6: "Current Immigration Issues," led by Denise Gilman

Professor Denise Gilman will talk about our southern border and asylum and deportation proceedings. She is on the faculty of the University of Texas School of Law where she co-directs the Immigration Clinic and teaches Refugee Law and Policy. She has extensive experience in the field of human rights and migrants' rights. She has focused on advocacy and representation on behalf of asylum seekers and in connection with the detention of migrants. She is a founding member of the Board of the Texas Immigration Law Council. The information she shares will be an excellent precursor to the following Sunday's Adult Faith Formation (December 13) when Randy and Nancy Baden will describe the Global Refuge projects they visited in Guatemala for persons who have been deported from our country; First English is a supporter of Global Refuge.

Dec. 13: "Global Refuge in Guatemala," led by Nancy and Randy Baden
Dec. 20: "The Christmas Gospels," led by Pr. Don Wright
Dec. 27: *No Scheduled Adult Faith Formation*

TLU CHRISTMAS VESPERS

Texas Lutheran University's Christmas Vespers invites you to *Journey to Peace*, a service of music and reflection that moves from the quiet, inward peace of the heart, toward the peace that came into the world at Christmas. Services are December 4 and 5, 7:30 pm, and December 6, 4 pm in Jackson Auditorium in Seguin. Tickets are free but required for those services. Reserve online at tlu.edu/vespers. There will be an additional service on Sunday, December 13, 4 pm, St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Austin. No tickets are required for the Austin service.

FLAMENCO INDIA IN CONCERT | DECEMBER 6 | 7 PM

Join Oliver Rajamani and friends in an unknown, historic story told through music and dance. Sunday, December 6 at 7 pm at State Side Paramount Theatre. For tickets: austintheatre.org.

REPERTORY CHORUS | DECEMBER 7 | 5 PM | FELC

Join Repertory Chorus on Monday, December 7, 5:00 pm, for a holiday concert. Graduate students and Undergrad music education majors will conduct. Free admission. FELC partners with UT's Butler School of Music to provide a laboratory, rehearsal, and venue experience for these professional, educational vocal leaders.

HARMONY FOR THE HOLIDAYS | DECEMBER 12 | 2 PM | FELC

Harmony for the Holidays concert at FELC on Saturday, December 12 at 2 pm, presented by A Cappella Texas and A Cappella Unlimited. For information and tickets, visit acappellatexas.org.

CHORUS AUSTIN

Join Chorus Austin for three holiday concerts. For details, locations, and tickets, visit chorusaustin.org.

December 1: Messiah with the Austin Symphony Orchestra
December 6: Sing it Yourself Messiah
December 19: On a Winter's Eve – Gloria

AUSTIN CANTORUM: AN AUSTIN-STYLE LESSONS & CAROLS | FELC

Sunday, December 20, 6 pm & **Tuesday, December 22**, 7:30 pm at FELC.
For more information, visit austincantorum.com.

LEADERS IN LEARNING, LITURGY, & HOSPITALITY

Ministers	All the People of God
Adult Faith Formation	Rev. Sharon Wiggins
Altar Care Server	Teresa Ringness
Assisting Minister	Shannon Aguirre
Council Stewards	Leigh Northcutt, Anne Wiebe
Crucifer	J.D. Aguirre
Hospitality Hosts	Hospitality Team
Lector	Monica Lund
Livestream Minister	J.P Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Eli Aguirre, oboe; Cantor Bryan Rust Don Wright, recorder; Michael Marty, trumpet
Preaching & Presiding	Pastor Katie Rode
Ushers	Terry Porter, Randy Baden

PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

Thanksgiving for the life of Margaret VanAntwerp, for her family & friends
especially Kate Wanstrom, who grieve her death and celebrate her life eternal;
Peyton, friend of the Boas family, in treatment for breast cancer;
Chris Boas, for healing;
Sarah Roberts, her family, & friends, for her support in treatment;
Rory Kelley & family, son-in-law of Donna & Don Wright, as Rory continues cancer treatment;
for all who travel in this holiday season;
strength & a spirit of justice for all who work & continue to support peacemaking
efforts in Gaza & in the world;
Micah 6 food ministries & Drop-in Center;
Lutheran Campus Ministry;
Casa Marianella;
those recovering from earthquakes, fires, & flooding;
places experiencing violence, war, oppression, disaster, conflict, & recovery;
those affected by gun violence;
those who advocate for healing, safety, justice, inclusion, peace, & equity;
citizens & leaders of, & immigrants & refugees to the United States;
all in need of safe shelter & nourishing food & for those who offer it;
all living with addiction, cancer, grief, & spiritual, health, & employment needs.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Leigh Northcutt-Benson, President
leigh.northcutt@gmail.com
Michele Hockett Cooper, Vice President
Betsy Appleton
Charlie Boas
Larry Collmann
Erin McCracken
Pastor Katie Rode
Anne Wiebe
Joe Cain, Treasurer
Gwen Flory, Financial Secretary

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Teresa del Aguila & family
Bookkeeper
Melissa Kruckenberg

NOTICES

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CELEBRATE ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, & EPIPHANY AT FIRST ENGLISH 2026

Sundays in Advent | November 29; December 6, 13, 20
Adult Faith Formation | 9:00 am
Holy Communion Worship Onsite & YouTube | 10:00 am
Hospitality following Worship Onsite

Wednesdays in Advent | December 2, 9, 16
Advent Bible Study in the FELC Library, led by Pastor Katie | 5:30 pm
Holden Evening Prayer Onsite & YouTube | 7 pm
Blue Christmas Evening Prayer | December 16 | 7 pm

Advent Open House | Sunday, December 6 | 11:15 am
Fellowship, treats, and Christmas tree decorating, hosted by Pastor Katie

Christmas Caroling | Saturday, December 19
Visit homebound folks to spread the joy of Christmas
Meet at FELC at 11:30 am

Christmas Eve | Thursday, December 24
Holy Communion & Candlelight | 7:00 pm
Prelude Music begins at 6:45 pm
Onsite & YouTube

Sunday after Christmas | December 27
Holy Communion Worship with Lessons & Carols | 10:00 am
Onsite & YouTube
Hospitality following Worship Onsite
No adult faith formation on December 27

Epiphany Sunday | January 3, 2027
Adult Faith Formation | 9:00 am
Holy Communion Worship Onsite & YouTube | 10:00 am
Hospitality following Worship Onsite