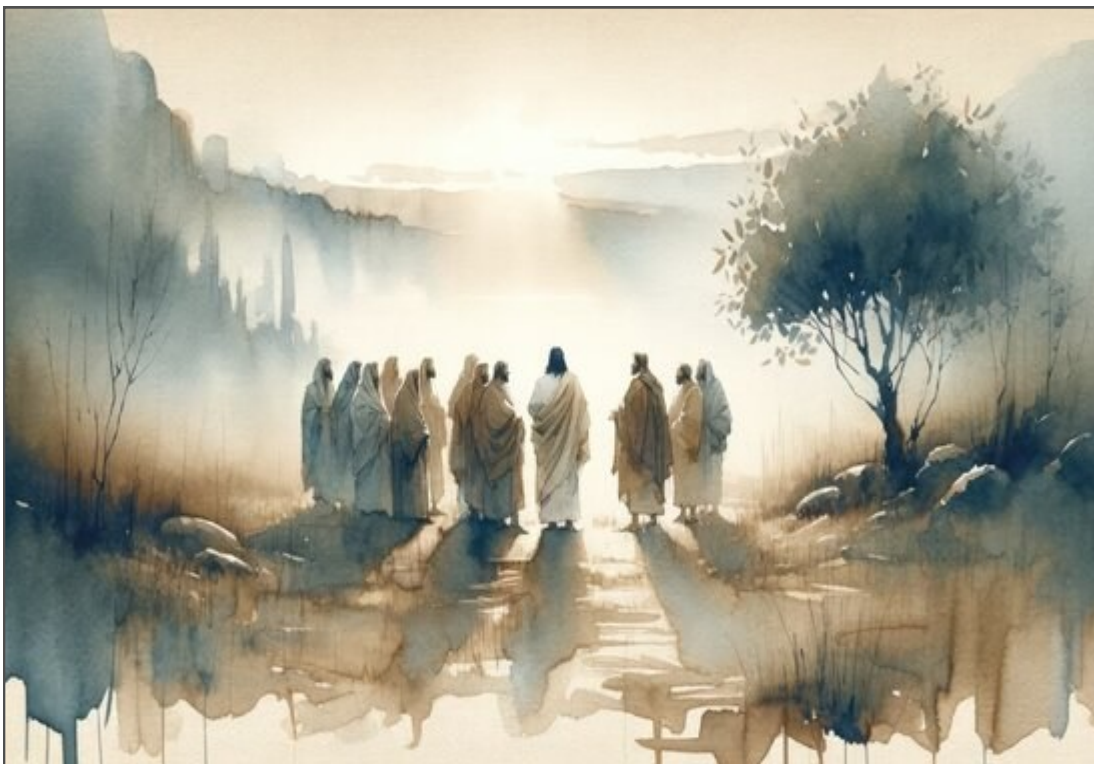


The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 3, 2026 | 10 AM
Word & Eucharist | Onsite & Online



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

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

Everyone is welcome. This means you.

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church. We are a congregation of the Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). You are invited to fully participate in a community of faith and friendship that gathers for worship, relationship building, personal growth, and service in the community and the world. Following the example of Christ, this congregation welcomes you exactly as you are.

Worship is at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we encounter God, express our theology, define our identity, and are formed and transformed as the people of God. As we are gathered together, we receive the Word of God, give thanks, and are sent to be living, active images of divine love.

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. For more on our welcome and life, visit www.felcaustin.org.

When we gather in the **Chapel of the Saints**, we gather as the saints of God in prayer, worship, and community. We gather with the saints of the past that we remember in various ways: the names engraved on the Columbarium, the Cloud of Witnesses mobile hanging in the Chapel containing the names of all who have died at FELC since 1936, and the icons displayed on the walls that remind us of people who inspire our faith and action today. The icons in the Chapel, by artist Kelly Latimore, are diverse saints, ancient and contemporary, and eight more are installed in the hallway outside the north transept entrance. The Columbarium consists of separate niches that can hold up to two urns each.

All Gender Restrooms, with infant changing tables, are located in the hallway off of the sanctuary near the fellowship hall. **Hearing assistance devices** are available for the sanctuary, with two options: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids; please connect with an usher for a hearing assistance device. **Seat cushions**, for use on our wood pews and chairs are available from an usher in the narthex.

We acknowledge the presence of God's people living on this land long before European conquest. These lands and waters have sustained the Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Jumanos, Lipan Apache, Sana, Tonkawa, and other indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Gathering today to worship on ancestral homelands, we acknowledge and honor our indigenous sisters, siblings, and brothers who continue to care for the land and water and call this land home.

✝ GATHERING ✝

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, the gospel story this week includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place in his Father's house. We are called to share Jesus' mission in the world. We are called to proclaim the one who called us out of the shadows into the fullness of light. In words and deeds or service, healing, and justice-making we bear witness to the risen Christ—who is our way, and truth, and life. Today we welcome new members to this congregation community. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

A Paschal candle is a central symbol in the church's worship life. The paschal candle, lit at baptisms, confirmations, renewals, funerals, and throughout the Easter season, shines with the light of Christ's resurrection, reminding all that we have new life in God's love.

Gathering Music

Call to Worship

from Proverbs 4:10-18, The Message

Dear friends, take this advice; it will add years to your life. I'm laying out clear direction to the way of Wisdom and the road of relationship with Wisdom. I don't want you wasting energy and time. Hold tight to the good; don't relax your grip. Guard it well! Don't ignore the way of Wickedness; be purposeful and give it a wide berth. Be on your way from the Evil One. ¹⁶⁻¹⁷ Evil is restless unless it makes trouble. Evil-doers don't get a good night's sleep unless they've made life miserable for somebody; perversity is their food and drink, and violence their drug of choice. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ The ways of healing people glow with light; the longer the light lives among you, the brighter you shine.

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

Thanks be to God.

At sound of the singing bowls, we stand, as able, and turn to face the main entrance of the nave.



- ¹ In you O Lord have I taken refuge; let me never be ¹ put to shame;
 deliver me ¹ in your righteousness.
- ² **Incline your ¹ ear to me;**
make haste to de- ¹ liver me.
- ³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag ¹ and my stronghold;
 for the sake of your name lead ¹ me and guide me.
- ⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly ¹ set for me,**
for you are my tow- ¹ er of strength.
- ⁵ Into your hands I com- ¹ mend my spirit,
 for you have redeemed me O Lord, ¹ God of truth.
- ¹⁵ **My times are ¹ in your hand;**
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who ¹ persecute me.
- ¹⁶ **Let your face shine up- ¹ on your servant;**
save me in your ¹ steadfast love.”

Easter Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The love and grace of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we know Jesus to be the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life in all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

Welcome to Community

✠ WORD ✠

Anthem

All Ye Lands, Sing Alleluia! Text/Music: Ben Allaway, b.1958

Praise to the Lord, all ye who adore, praise and exalt Him forever!

All to His throne now come before.

All ye nations, all ye lands sing alleluia! Praise to your maker! Alleluia, now sing alleluia!

Come to the Lord, ye peoples at war, honor His strength and His spirit.

Work for a peace and fight no more.

All ye nations, all ye lands sing alleluia! Praise to your maker! Alleluia, now sing alleluia!

Alleluia! His kingdom shall reign! Alleluia, now sing alleluia!

Reading

Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

A Time of Wisdom & Wonder

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

We stand as we welcome Christ in the Good News. We turn to face the cross in procession.

Gospel Acclamation In Procession



Hal-le, hal-le-lu - jah. Hal-le, hal-le-lu - jah. Hal - le-lu-jah, hal - le-lu-jah,



hal - le-lu-jah. Hal - le-lu-jah, hal - le-lu-jah, hal - le-lu-jah!

Verse: Lord Jesus, show | us the Father,* and we | will be satisfied. John 14:8

This is the holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

We sing the Gospel Acclamation.

Sermon

We remain seated to sing.

The hymn refrain includes words meaning ‘peace’ from various traditions: Shanti (Sanskrit) pronounced “shahn-tee” and is used in Hindu and Buddhist traditions. Pax (Latin) pronounced “pahks.” Shalom (Hebrew) pronounced “shuh-lohm” and means peace, wholeness. Maslaha (Arabic) pronounced “muhs-lah-hah” and means reconciliation.

1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
 2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
 3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,

Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
 stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
 bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.

Refrain

Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.

Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
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Prayer & Meditation

We invite a time of quiet for your prayers to God for the earth; the nations; the poor, ill, oppressed, lonely, unhoused, homebound, imprisoned, bereaved, and joyful; for justice and mercy; for the communities where we live, worship, play, and work; for ourselves, our loved ones and our enemies; & for the sorrows, thanksgivings, and hopes we bring today. A prayer list is found on page 16.

Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

The exchange of peace within the gathered community is an ancient Christian practice. Gentle signs of reconciliation and love renew and build relationships prior to coming to Christ's table for Eucharist.

✝MEAL✝

Welcome New Members

Response: Let us welcome these beloved to this community of faith and service.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news in all the world!

Welcome to Communion & Offering

We reflect on our stewardship of the gifts of God entrusted to us for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. God welcomes generosity. Financial gifts may be shared through the offering plate or online at www.felcaustin.org/information/giving.

We stand as bread, wine, and other gifts are presented and prepared for blessing.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in a single system, each with lyrics underneath. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er". The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: "free, ends. near, the love is, the life of Je - sus in such friend - ship to re - call us one, and bet - ter known, a -". The third staff concludes the piece with lyrics: "love laid down for me, in love laid down for me. strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends. live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some phrases marked with slurs.

I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
free, ends. near, the love is, the life of Je - sus in such friend - ship to re - call us one, and
bet - ter known, a -
love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.

Text: Brian A. Wren

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*

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Offering Prayer

All things come from you, O God, **and we give back to you the gifts that come from you.**
Welcome us here, gracious God, as we meet Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Joel Martinson, b. 1960

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff also has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has one long measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has one long measure: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and ties.

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

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the 'Sanctus' section. It consists of five staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and'. The second staff has two measures: 'might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -'. The third staff has two measures: 'san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -'. The fifth staff has two measures: 'san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and ties.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for all.

In the night in which he was given to death . . .

Remembering, therefore, Christ's life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this hurting and beautiful world.

Let us proclaim together the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the new life of Christ.

Through Christ, \mp with Christ, in Christ all glory and honor is yours, gracious God, with the Holy Spirit, in the church and in the world, both now and forever. **AMEN!**

Gathered together in resurrection love, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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

Alleluia! Christ our Paschal Lamb has been sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

Be seated.



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a
 2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a
 3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
 length; such a strength as makes his guest.
 part; such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593–1632

Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Invitation to Communion & Blessing

God, in Christ, fully welcomes people of every age to this Meal, which is known by many names: the Lord’s Supper, Holy Communion, the Mass, the Sacrament, the Eucharist. We encourage you to participate in ways that are meaningful for you.

For those participating onsite, ushers will direct you by the center aisle to a station to receive bread in your hand for you to eat, then proceed to a station and 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 where a minister will offer a prayer of blessing. Then, return to your seat by a side aisle. We join in prayer, meditation, and music. If you desire communion or a blessing at your place, let an usher or minister know.

Healing Prayer

Healing Prayer is an ancient and powerful ritual of the church. It is a deeply personal encounter with our need for healing in body, mind, spirit, and relationship, and our turning to God for all healing, grace, and mercy. Those who desire healing prayer, which may include the laying on of hands on the head and anointing with oil on the forehead, are invited to the Chapel of the Saints during the communion distribution. You may wait in one of the chairs until the healing prayer station is free for kneeling or standing.

Communion Music

Hands of Healing

Hands of heal-ing, — Je-sus, lay on me; gen-tle

hands of heal-ing, — Je-sus, lay on me.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Hands of heal-ing, — Je-sus, lay on me; gen-tle'. The second staff contains the lyrics 'hands of heal-ing, — Je-sus, lay on me.' The music consists of simple quarter and eighth notes with a melodic line.

Text and music: Carol Ann Webb

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Communion Music

Healer of Our Every Ill | ELW 612

Text/Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

We remain seated as we offer our thanks.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, source of all healing, thank you for the gifts of strength and life, and above all for the gift of your risen Son. In him we have health and salvation. Guide us by your Holy Spirit. May we experience your power in our lives and trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

✝ SENDING ✝

Traveling Blessing

Please stand as able.

Prayer for Healing

Stewardship Theme in May: Heal

Holy One, let the fire of your healing love pass through my entire being making me new. **Touch my mind and my emotion, even the deepest recesses of my spirit. Saturate my entire being with your joy and peace. Draw me closer to you and to my neighbors in each moment of life. May I rest in your love. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, my risen Savior and Friend. Amen.**

God's Blessing

based on Song of Blessing, by Sara Groves

May God give us eyes to see all that is good, and the strength and courage for anything. May God give us ears to hear God's loving voice speaking all around us and deep inside us. May the blessing of God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, continue with us, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! | ELW 380

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763-1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.

Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Linderman, 1812-1887

Dismissal to Mission

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace to love and serve in newness of life! **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit felcaustin.org to learn more about the FELC welcome, worship, music, community life, learning, engagement, racial justice, and reconciliation ministries. To subscribe to a weekly email Newsletter or connect with the staff or ministry leaders, contact office@felcaustin.org. If you are new to the FELC community, use the QR code to connect.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Claire Coulson

“I grew up Episcopalian. About 18 years ago I started church hopping. I went here for a while, there for a while, then nowhere. With all that's going on I felt increasingly desperate for a church. I went to high school with Leigh Northcut-Benson. She's always posting pictures of things going on here at church. I just kept thinking those people look happy! So one Sunday I came. I LOVED IT!!! It was everything I missed in church! I had not seen my mom since she died 12/24. That first Sunday I came, in the closing hymn I suddenly felt my mom rejoicing with joy! I was overwhelmed and in tears. I knew then I'd found a home and I've been here ever since. I love this church and all its people! Y'all are ALIVE!”

Don & Donna Wright

Don and Donna are retired ELCA pastors who were organizing for LGBTQIA rights when they were in seminary - the same time First English became a Reconciling in Christ congregation. They moved to Texas (now Elgin) to be closer to their only child, Marica Kelley, her husband Rory and his/their kids. Don especially loves music and has already started singing in the choir. Donna loves to organize and is active in the Democratic Party. They are looking forward to participating in the life of First English Lutheran Church.

Deb el-Bathy

Deb is a not so recent transplant from Michigan, moving to Austin about a dozen years ago to be closer to adult children and grandchildren. She's an avid gardener and has a plot at St. David's Foundation Community garden where she regularly acts as volunteer coordinator, as well as caring for the garden's wildflower bed and the Texas pocket prairie bed. Deb is also a member of the Travis Audubon Ruffled Feathers book club. Deb and her children attended Iroquois Avenue Christ Lutheran Church in Detroit for 17 years, where she acted as a youth coordinator, and directed, and eventually became owner of, the church's childcare center. She attended Gethsemane Lutheran after moving to Austin and is now eager to join the faith community at First English!

FELC CELEBRATES RIC

On April 24, FELC has been a Reconciling in Christ congregation for 37 years! We give God thanks for calling us in witness to the gospel. We celebrate God's welcome, inclusion, and reconciliation with all people, including people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions.

ELCA SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The ELCA Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly met on May 1 & 2. Pastors, deacons, and lay voting members from the whole synod gathered for worship, sharing resources, and to conduct organizational business. FELC voting members Charlie Boas, Leigh Northcutt-Benson, and Pastor Katie Rode attended. A summary report is forthcoming about the assembly. May God continue to bless the ministry of the ELCA.

LEADERS IN LITURGY & HOSPITALITY | SUNDAY, MAY 3

Ministers	All the People of God
Altar Care Server	Barbara Schutz
Assisting Minister	Nikki Northcutt
Building Open/Close	Charlie Boas, Anne Wiebe
Crucifer	Jerry Don Aguirre
Lector	Erin McCracken
Livestream Minister	J.P. Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Elijah Aguirre; Cantor Bryan Rust
Hospitality Hosts	Kate Wanstrom
Presiding & Preaching Minister	Pastor Katie Rodie
Ushers	Randy Baden, Terry Porter

PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

FELC, in thanksgiving for the 37 year witness on April 24 of being a Reconciling in Christ congregation;
all who travel this summer, for safe journeys, meaningful experiences, & joyful homecomings;
the Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly meeting May 1 & 2;
places experiencing violence, war, oppression, disaster, conflict & recovery;
the people of Iran & the United States military engaged in conflict;
FELC Stewardship Committee;
those who advocate for healing, safety, justice, inclusion, peace & equity;
all who mourn, grieve, and lament;
benevolence ministry partners and their leaders: Micah 6 Food Ministries,
LuMin, Global Refuge, & Casa Marianella;
citizens & leaders of, immigrants, & refugees to the United States.

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