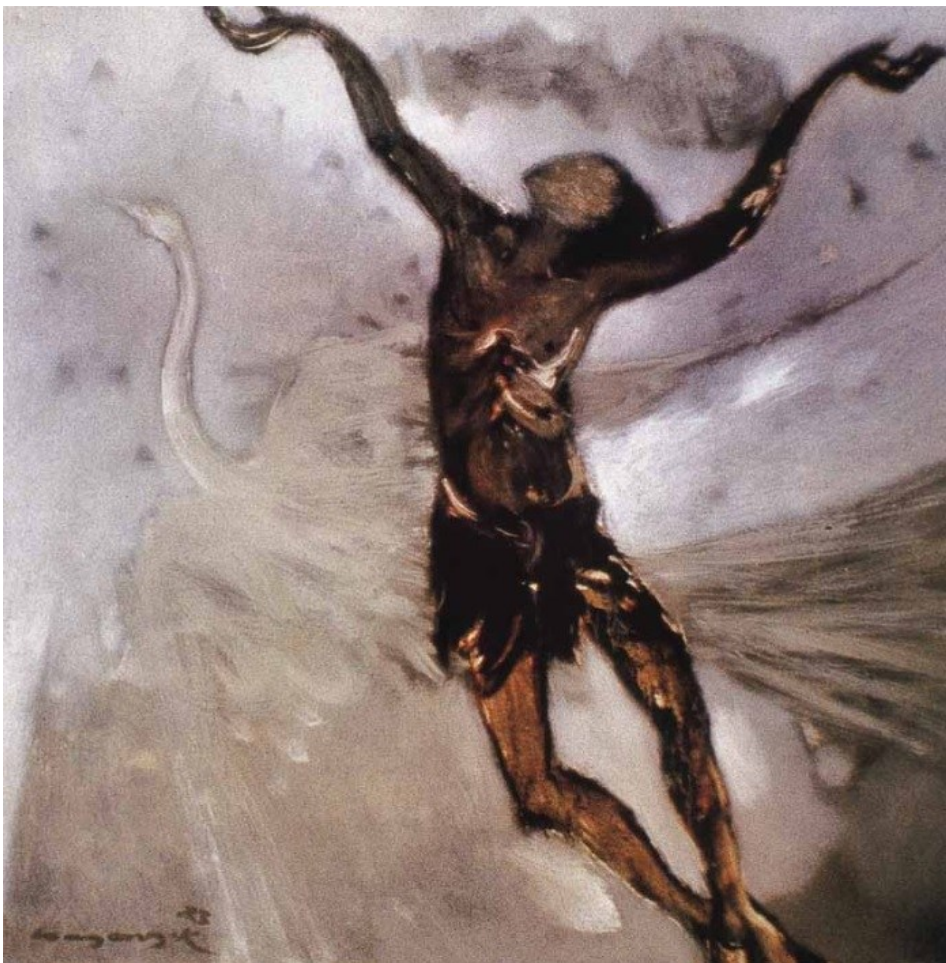


**The Sunday after the Ascension of Our Lord**  
**Sunday, May 17, 2026 | 10 AM**  
**Word & Eucharist | Onsite & Online**



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](http://www.felcaustin.org).

**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.

### FELC in a Sabbath: Stage One - Ministry Pause

This Spring, the First English Congregation Council instituted a time of ministry Sabbath. It begins with a Ministry Pause for the congregation and its ministries of worship, learning, witness, service, and support from May 31 to July 25. The broader Sabbath season will be observed through November of 2026.

During the eight-week pause, regular ministry activities will pause. We will continue in weekly worship and turn our shared focus toward reflection, discernment, and the faithful stewarding of our resources. Over the course of this year, this Sabbath will include personal and spiritual growth, community-wide forums, and regular updates from church leadership.

This Ministry Pause invites us to assess our life together as we prepare for a season of renewal and faithful stewardship. We will engage in active listening with the Holy Spirit and with one another. We pray this time will mend and strengthen this congregation community for the future.

As we begin our 91st year of ministry in Austin, we seek to be intentional about shaping the next season of God's mission in this place. If you are newly receiving this information, we welcome you to share in this journey. To learn more, contact Pastor Katie Rode, [pastor@felcaustin.org](mailto:pastor@felcaustin.org).

# ✝ GATHERING ✝

As we enter the final week of the fifty days of Easter, we engage a potentially unsettling Bible story: Jesus ascends into heaven forty days after his resurrection from the dead. Yet, his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus. On this Ascension celebration, one of the major feasts of the Church, we find Christ's presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. From that feast we go to live abundantly, to commit to acts of service, care, and healing, and to love freely. This Easter faith is active and real. We long for the Spirit to invigorate God's mission in us. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! We welcome Leigh Northcutt-Benson, president of the congregation, as our preacher this Sunday.

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 Psalm 47: 5-8

<sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn. <sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God; sing praises to our king! <sup>7</sup> For God is king in all the earth; sing praises with a song.

<sup>8</sup> God reigns over the nations! Rejoice, for God is enthroned on high!

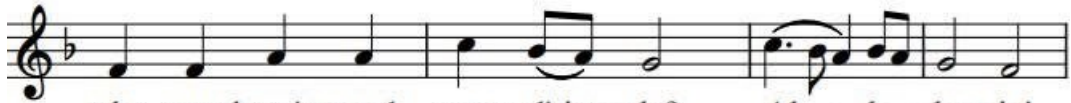
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**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. O ye men of Gal - i - lee, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2. All ye na - tions clap your hands; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. Hail the day that sees him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!



why gaze heav'n-ward won - d'ring - ly? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Shout to God with joy ye lands! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 to his throne be - yond the skies; Al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus, whom you saw as - cend, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Praise the Fa - ther, and the Son, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners giv'n, Al - le - lu - ia!



will re - turn at ag - es end. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 With the Ho - ly Spi - rit, One, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 en - ters now the high - est heaven. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Text Vs 3: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, and Thomas Cotterill, 1779-1823.  
 Acts 1:11; Viri Galilaei; Introit, Ascension; adapted, Greg Heislman, © 2014.  
 Tune: LLANFAIR, 77 77 with Alleluias; Robert Williams, 1781-1821*

## 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 and gracious God, your Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and, in your good time, bring everything into your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and ascended Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## Welcome to Community

# ✝ WORD ✝

## Reading

**Ephesians 1:15-23, adapted**

Paul writes: <sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know Christ, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which Christ has called you, what are the riches of a glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of God's power for all who believe, according to the working of that great power. <sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when God raised Christ from the dead and seated him at God's right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup> And God has put all things into God's dominion, and has made Christ the head over all things for the whole church, <sup>23</sup> which is Christ's body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

Music: Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verse: Lord, to whom<sup>1</sup> shall we go?\* You have the words of<sup>1</sup> eternal life!

John 6:68

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

## Holy Gospel

**Luke 24:44-53**

<sup>44</sup> [Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” <sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

*We sing the Gospel Acclamation.*

## Sermon

*We remain seated.*

## 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 15.

For additional prayers to offer, please see pages 72-87 in the front of the ELW, the red worship book.

The choir offers an anthem during prayer time.

## Anthem

### Light of the World

Music/Text: Milton Dieterich, 1900-1977

Light of the world, waken, O waken our hearts to gratitude for all Thy mercies.  
Inspire our hearts, for songs of praise are in our hearts.

Draw us to Thee, Lord, that we may see the beauty of Thy life.  
Give us strength that we may rise and glorify Thee.

We stand to sing.

## Hymn of the Day

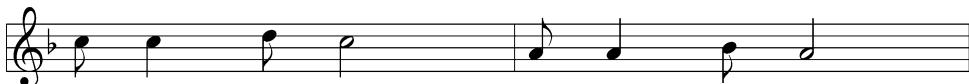
### There's New Life in Jesus



1 There's new life in Je - sus, lift up your heart!  
2 There is heal - ing in his love, lift up your heart!



There's new life in Je - sus, lift up your heart!  
There is heal - ing in his love, lift up your heart!



Lift up your heart! Lift up your heart!  
Lift up your heart! Lift up your heart!



There's new life in Je - sus, lift up your heart!  
There is heal - ing in his love, lift up your heart!

Text: Anonymous  
Music: Anonymous

## Sharing the Peace

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

## ✠MEAL✠

### 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](http://www.felcaustin.org/information/giving).*

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

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.

### Offering Song

### God Gave to Me a Life to Live

1 God gave to me a life to live; God  
2 When I am helped to see what's good, and

gave me hands with which to give; God gave a heart with  
led to do the things I should, I thank you, car - ing

which to care; God gave me love that I might share.  
God a - bove, for life and hands and heart and love.

Text: Anonymous

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

### 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 in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The lyrics are: '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.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

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 in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second has two measures, the third has two measures, the fourth has two measures, and the fifth has two measures. The lyrics are: '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 -', and 'san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'

## 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, his glorious resurrection, his majestic ascension, and his promise of the Holy Spirit, we long for your abundant life in 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, as we live as your beloved ones, clothed in the new life of Christ.

Through Christ, ✠ 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.*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## 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

### Lord Jesus Christ, Lover of All

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Lord Jesus Christ, Lover of All". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord Je - sus Christ, Lord Je - sus, lov - er of all, of all, trail wide the hem of your gar - ment, bring heal - ing, bring peace." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final chord.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: LOVER OF ALL, John L. Bell

Text and music © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

## Communion Music

**Shout to the Lord | ELW 821**

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965  
Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech

*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.**

## Council Ministry Moment

## ✝ SENDING ✝

### 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 Song

**Rejoice, for Christ is King! | ELW 430**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.  
Music: LAUS REGIS, William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

### Sending in 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](http://felcaustin.org) to learn more about the FELC faith community. To subscribe to a weekly email Newsletter or connect with the staff or ministry leaders, contact [office@felcaustin.org](mailto:office@felcaustin.org). If you are new to the FELC community, use the QR code to connect.



### **LUNCH & LEARN | TODAY**

The FELC Council will be hosting a Lunch & Learn following worship today to answer questions and discuss the upcoming Sabbath and Ministry Pause.

### **PENTECOST SUNDAY | MAY 24**

The Easter season concludes on Sunday, May 24 with the Feast of the Pentecost as we celebrate the Holy Spirit in all the world. The primary color for the Spirit is red, so wear some red on Sunday, May 24. We rejoice with Hadley Fuerst as she affirms her baptism. Come, Holy Spirit!

### **AUSTIN CANTORUM | MAY 30 | 7:30 PM**

Join Austin Cantorum at FELC exploring choral music that celebrates regional cuisine, reflects on the nature of hunger, and examines what it means to have a purposeful relationship with the food we eat. Two universal languages: music and food (!) with a non-perishable canned food drive to benefit the Central Texas Food Bank. Admission is FREE; suggested donation of \$25. RSVP today at [AustinCantorum.com](http://AustinCantorum.com).

### **MICAH 6 FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

We will be accepting food and clothing donations during the month of May for both Micah 6 and Casa Marianella. We invite abundance in donating in May as we will engage a time of ministry pause for reflection and discernment May 31-July 25. Our hope is to donate enough during May that the abundance is equivalent to our May-July donations. Also, our First English volunteer group that prepares and serves the meal for the youth drop in center will serve in May, then take the same pause schedule listed above. Contact Andy MacLaren, [andymaclaren@cs.com](mailto:andymaclaren@cs.com), 512-947-4186.

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Cover art: Bagong Kussudiardja (Indonesian, 1928–2004), *Ascension*, 1983

## PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

*As a community of faith, we pray for:*

for all graduating & all those transitioning to new chapters of school, work, & life;  
Hadley Martha Fuerst, as she affirms her baptism & receives the gift of confirmation;  
for the First English community, as we prepare to enter a time of Sabbath,  
beginning with a ministry pause;  
for the FELC Congregation Council & their leadership in this community;  
all who travel this summer, for safe journeys, meaningful experiences, & joyful homecomings;  
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;  
benevolence ministry partners & their leaders: Micah 6 Food Ministries,  
LuMin, Global Refuge, & Casa Marianella;  
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, & with spiritual, health, & employment needs.

## LEADERS IN LITURGY & HOSPITALITY | SUNDAY, MAY 17

Ministers	All the people of God
Altar Care	Teresa Ringness
Assisting Minister	Betsy Appleton
Building Open/Close	Anne Wiebe
Communion Minister	LaRu Woody
Council Ministry Moment	Erin McCracken
Crucifer	Jerry Don Aguirre
Lector	Monica Lund
Livestream Minister	J.P. Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Elijah Aguirre, oboe; Michael Marty, percussion; Cantor Bryan Rust
Hospitality Hosts	Merrily Porter, leader
Preaching Minister	Leigh Northcutt-Benson
Presiding & Preaching Minister	Pastor Katie Rodie
Ushers	Terry Porter

