

Sunday, August 2, 2026
The 90th Anniversary of the Congregation
Word & Eucharist
10 AM - onsite & online



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

3001 Whitis Avenue
Austin, Texas 78705
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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 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. We utilize various biblical and contemporary images and names for God, Jesus, and humanity. The church season after Easter and Pentecost Days is half of the calendar year. Sometimes called “Ordinary Time” because of the numbering (ordinals) of the Sunday, it includes summer and fall with the primary growth color of green.

We stand, as able.

Gathering Song

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty | ELW 533

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

This text of the Confession and Absolution of Sin is from the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal, 1896, and the Service Book and Hymnal, 1948, and was the primary form used in Lutheran worship in North America until 1978.

Confession & Absolution of Sin

All are invited to make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

I was glad when they said unto me, **let us go to the house of Lord!**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, **the maker of heaven and earth.**

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sin unto God, beseeching God, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant unto us forgiveness.

Silence is kept for self-reflection and examination.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer,

we confess that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed.

Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring

Thy grace. Have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sin.

Increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will, and true obedience to Thy

holy Word, that by Thy grace we may come unto the fullness of everlasting life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Almighty and Merciful God grant unto you, being truly penitent,

the full pardon and remission of all sin, time for amendment of life,

and the grace and comfort of the gospel;

in the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

Gloria Richard Hillert, 1923-2010

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Greeting & Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Gracious God, you promise to be with your Son's Church forever. Thank you for those who founded this community of faith, and for the signs of your presence in our life together now. May we continue to be a witness of mercy and justice, as we welcome, love, and serve all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sharing Christ's Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all. **And 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.

Welcome to Community

✠ WORD ✠

Time of Wisdom & Wonder

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

First Reading

1 Kings 8:22-30

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³He said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, ‘There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to live before me as you have lived before me.’ ²⁶Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. ²⁷“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Locus Iste Anton Bruckner, 1824-1896
based on Genesis 28:16, Exodus 3:5

Locus iste a Deo factus est, inaestimabile sacramentum; irreprehensibilis est.	This place was made by God, a priceless sacrament; it is without reproach.
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Second Reading

1 Peter 2:1-5,9-10

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to Christ, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious to God, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices and praises to God through Jesus Christ. You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the One who called you out of darkness into a great and marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

We stand to welcome Christ in the gospel and sing the hymn.

Gospel Acclamation

God's Word is Our Great Heritage

Nikolai Grundtvig, 1783-1872; Ein Feste Burg, Martin Luther, 1483-1546

God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;

to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.

Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while

time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of two staves each. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines.

This is holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:12-22

Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’; but you are making it a den of robbers.” The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became angry and said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read, ‘Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?’”¹⁷ He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there. In the morning, when he returned to the city, he was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the side of the road, he went to it and found nothing at all on it but leaves. Then he said to it, “May no fruit ever come from you again!” And the fig tree withered at once. When the disciples saw it, they were amazed, saying, “How did the fig tree wither at once?” Jesus answered them, “Truly I tell you, when you have faith, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ it will be done. What you ask for with faith, you will receive, according to my Father’s will.”

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

Sermon

Ministry Moment

Welcome to 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.

Offering Music

A prayer list is found on page 19.

We stand, as able.

Litany of Thanksgiving

We celebrate the Spirit's power to enliven the mission and ministry of First English Lutheran Church for ninety years. Let us give thanks to God.

We thank you, gracious God, for in the beginning of time your Spirit moved, and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you take delight.

Through a flood you restored Noah's family.

Through the sea you led your ancient Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the River Jordan Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as your beloved people,
guiding us to trust your promises, and to live as servants of all.

We thank you, gracious God!

We thank you, gracious God,
for the universe beyond our knowing, for seas and forests and fields,
for the land and its first inhabitants and caretakers, for creatures, seen and unseen,
for animals, wild and tame, for our ancestors and godparents from around the globe.

We thank you, gracious God!

We thank you, gracious God,
for the places we humans call home: for cities and churches and schools and ranches,
for streets and missions and fellowship halls and food pantries.

We thank you, gracious God!

We thank you gracious God, for your covenant people, for your prophets and martyrs, sages and mystics, for those who founded this community of faith, for the Albers, Bohls, Burke, Depew, Hermann, Hielscher, Klaerner, Limberg, Metzger, Miller, Nau, Ohlendorf, Rinn, Schultze, Suehs, Werner, and Wendlandt families, and for all your faithful people who continue to reform, renew, and witness.

We thank you, gracious God!

We thank you gracious God! Amen.

Praise the Lord!

Give thanks to God!

God has blessed us and brought us to this time.

God has blessed us and brought us to this place.

God has come to dwell in our midst.

God has stirred our hearts and made us glad.

God has been known through Jesus.

God has shown us the way of abundant life.

Praise the Lord!

Give thanks to God!

For ninety years, God has nurtured and fed us.

For ninety years, God has shown us grace.

For ninety years, God has been revealed in Word and Sacrament.

For ninety years, God has empowered us with the Holy Spirit.

For ninety years, God has made us witnesses in the church and in the world.

For ninety years, God has placed us in community with one another.

For ninety years, God has invited us to welcome all people to Christ's table.

For ninety years, God has empowered us to love everyone.

Renewed in the fullness of God's love,

we rise again to give ourselves away for God's mission in the world.

Praise the Lord!

Give thanks to God!

Hymn of the Day

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord!

Text: Timothy Dwight, 1752-1817

Music: St. Thomas, Aaron Thomas, 1731-1776

1. I love Thy king-dom, Lord! The house of Thine a - bode, the
2. I love Thy Church, O God! Her walls be - fore Thee stand, dear
3. For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers as - cend. To
4. Be - yond my high - est joy I prize her Heav'n - ly ways! Her
5. Sure as Thy truth shall last, to Zi - on shall be giv'n the

Church our blest Re - deem - er saved with His own pre - cious blood.
as the ap - ple of Thine eye and grav - en on Thy hand.
her my cares and toils be giv'n till toils and cares shall end.
sweet com - mun - ion, sol - emn vows, her hymns of love and praise.
bright - est glo - ries earth can yield, and bright - er bliss of Heav'n.

This hymn was sung at the first anniversary service of the congregation on July 19, 1937, at the groundbreaking of the church held on January 22, 1939, at the laying of the cornerstone on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1939, and at the dedication of the Parish House (offices, education classrooms) on May 3, 1953.

✠ MEAL ✠

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit as we proclaim the gospel to all people.

We dedicate our lives to your service.

Help us witness to Jesus Christ in all we think and say and do.

We dedicate our lives to your service.

Empower us to support those in need now, being with the broken and marginalized in healing, mercy, and advocacy.

We dedicate our lives to your service.

Guide us to new ways of loving one another and those to whom you call us.

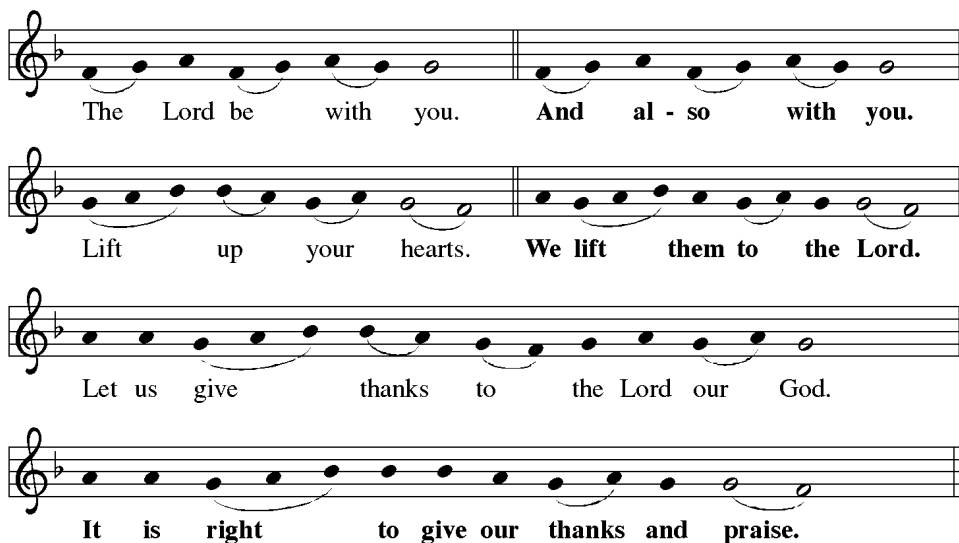
We dedicate our lives to your service.

Gracious God, welcome us at Christ's table, as we give thanks for all your gifts.

We dedicate our lives to your service. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Richard Hillert, 1923-2010



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

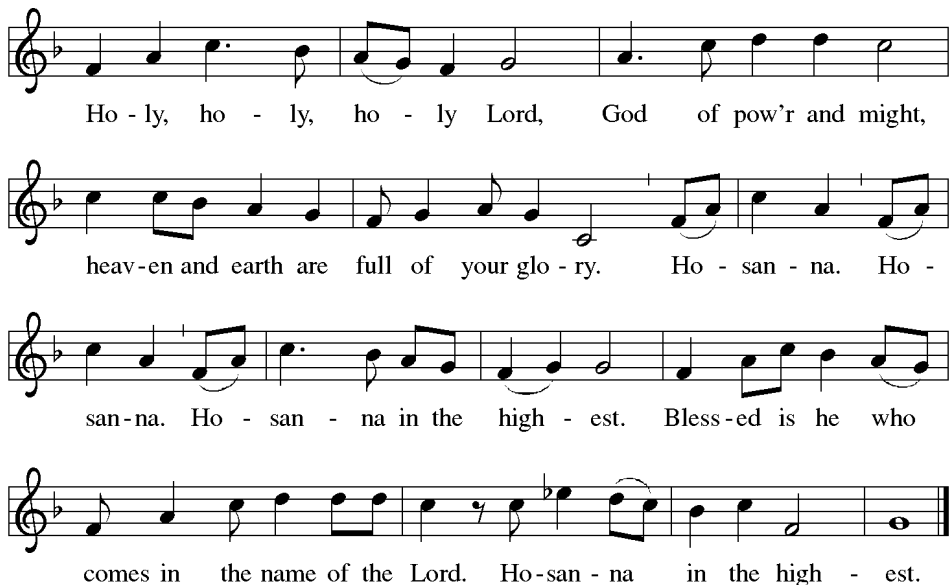
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right . . . join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

We praise you, all-holy God . . . in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim together the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

We praise you, all-holy God, through Jesus Christ, ☩ the first-born of all creation, the head of the church, and the author of our salvation.



The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by God's life-giving Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. 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 Richard Hillert

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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 onsite, come to the minister by the center aisle. Receive a gluten-free wafer (bread) in your hand and eat. Take a small cup of wine from the cart and drink. White grape juice in the tray is alcohol-free. Place the used wine/juice cup in the basket on the cart. If you would prefer not to receive bread or wine, a minister will offer a blessing. Return to your seat by a side aisle. We join in prayer and meditation. If you desire communion or a blessing at your place, a minister will come to you.

Communion Music

Goodness is Stronger than Evil | ELW 721

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, 1931-2021

Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell, b. 1949

Beautiful Savior | ELW 838

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Munster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

Music: SCHONSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

We stand, as able.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, thank you for nourishing us with the love of Christ. Amid the joys and cares of our lives, help us be attentive to your presence in each person we meet, and lead us to treasure your love above all else; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Sending Song

***Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* | ELW 674**

Text/Music: Fred Kaan, 1929-2009

The refrain is repeated each time.

Meal Prayer

God's Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
guard and keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of God's beloved one, Jesus Christ the Lord;
may the blessing of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
continue with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending in Mission

Go in peace to love and serve as Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

All are invited to Hospitality Time and a Community Potluck in the fellowship hall!

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.



Community Discernment | Sabbath Phase Two

The following are fellowship and discernment events, scheduled to begin after worship on each Sunday in August. These gatherings are designed for our community to reflect on what we have learned and begin discerning the future of First English together.

August 9: Dreaming Differently & Showing Up Differently, led by Rebecca Guengerich

August 16: Listening Differently & Sharing Differently, led by Rebecca Guengerich

August 23: Congregational SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats)–Part 1
led by Donna Wright

August 30: Congregational SWOT–Part 2 and identifying emerging themes
led by Donna Wright

Each week builds on the previous one as we develop shared practices for discernment and reflect on our congregation's future. Participation in all four Sundays is expected.

Back-to-School Blessing | Sunday, August 9

Begin a new season of learning and growth with prayer. On Sunday, August 9, students of all ages, teachers, administrators, care and support staff, and families are invited during the worship service to receive a blessing for a year of brave and safe learning. We invite you to bring a memento or token (such as a backpack or laptop) as a symbol.

Leaders in Liturgy

Ministers	All the People of God
Altar Care Server	Pastor Katie Rode
Lector	Trish Karli
Livestream Minister	J.P Northcutt-Benson
Ministry Moment	Michele Hockett Cooper
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Elijah Aguirre, oboe; Maria Straight, trumpet; Michael Marty, trumpet & percussion; Cantor Bryan Rust
Presiding & Preaching	Pastor Katie Rode
Ushers	Randy Baden, Terry Porter

The flowers are offered to the glory of God in thanksgiving for community of First English Lutheran Church. The FELC Anniversary Banner in the sanctuary displays the names of the founding families of First English. It was designed by Fred “Fritz” Woody and sewed by David Austin. This banner was originally created for the 75th anniversary.

Prayer Concerns & Joys

As a community of faith, we pray for:

the healing of creation & renewal of life;
Barbara Wiederaenders, for healing;
Carl Brockman, for healing;
the First English community, in thanksgiving for & celebration of the 90th anniversary;
the First English community, in this time of transition from Ministry Pause
to Community Discernment.
all who travel this summer, for safe journeys, meaningful experiences,
& joyful homecomings;
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, & with spiritual, health, & employment needs.

Notices

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