

Sunday, August 9, 2026
The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Word & Eucharist
10 AM - onsite & online



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 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.

✝ GATHERING ✝

Following the FELC Ministry Pause worship and sermon series, we return to the Bible readings proclaimed each week in most Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches (and others). This Sunday, the Hebrew bible story tells of Elijah finding the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of silence. When the first disciples of Jesus face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture, the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, and in the gathering of one another, God grants us peace, calling us to BE the presence of Christ’s mercy and justice in the world.

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.

Gathering Song

Cantad al Senor | ELW 822

Text: Brazilian folk song; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, 1923-2016

Music: CANTAD AL SENOR, Brazilian folk tune

Confession & Forgiveness of Sin

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

Blessed be God: our Maker, Redeemer, ✠ and Advocate.

Blessed be God forever! Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and continue growing into the fullness of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another

Silence is kept for self-reflection and examination.

Gracious God, have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We humbly repent. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, as we live and serve you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With joy I proclaim to you that God, rich in mercy and steadfast in love, forgives you all your sin, and freely gives you newness of life in the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

Gloria Ronald Nelson, 1927-2014

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, 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.**

God our defender, storms rage around and within us and can cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver us from fear and anxiety, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns, now and forever. **Amen.**

Welcome to Community

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading

1 Kings 19:9-18

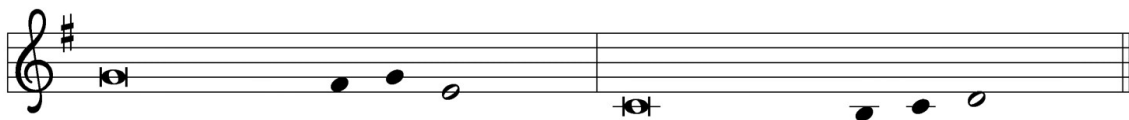
⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹¹ He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him,

“Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

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

Response

Psalm 85:8-13



- ⁸ I will attend to what the Lord | God is saying;
for you are peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.
- ⁹ **Truly your salvation is very near to | those who trust you,**
as your glory may dwell | in our land.
- ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.
- ¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,**
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.
- ¹² The Lord will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.
- ¹³ **Righteousness shall go be- | fore the Lord**
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.

Time of Wisdom & Wonder

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

Second Reading

Romans 10: 5-15

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

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

We stand to welcome Christ in the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Text: John 6:68; Music: Tillis Bultler



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

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

Sermon

We stand.

Hymn of the Day

***My Life Flows On in Endless Song* | ELW 763**

Text/Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

Prayers of Intercession

Response: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A prayer list is found on page 16.

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.

✝MEAL✝

Back to School Blessing

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

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

Offering Song

Earth and All Stars! | ELW 731

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

Offering Prayer

Merciful God,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us— our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of the One who offered himself to us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also 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, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; and so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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

Holy, mighty, and merciful God, . . . remembering, Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming again, and we proclaim together the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out the Spirit of your love, holy God, and unite the wills of all who share this feast, the body, blood, and blessing of † Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

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

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, 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 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

***Calm to the Waves* | ELW 794**

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CALM SEAS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

***What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine* | ELW 774**

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1919

Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

We stand, as able.

Prayer after Communion

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

✠ SENDING ✠

Sending Song

God of Grace and God of Glory | ELW 705

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

Welcome to Hospitality

God's Blessing

God the Creator who delights in us, Jesus the Savior who shines in us, ✠ and the life-giving Spirit who strengthens us, continue with us, and those we love, serve, and pray for, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending in Mission

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

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.



WELCOME PASTOR CECIE

The Rev. Cecie Suknaic Saulnier is the Associate Director of Congregational Innovation at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, in this neighborhood. A graduate of Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, she previously served for two years as Pastor of Spirit in the Hills Lutheran Church in Spicewood, Texas. She has served for the past three years as Co-Leader and Founder of Gather: Austin, a collaborative, city-based young adult ministry of the ELCA. In these leadership positions, Cecie lives out her call to intentional, creative, and relational based ministry. She is grounded in feminist theology, stories, and storytelling, and is passionate about empowerment, accompaniment, justice, God's collective dreams for the future, and innovative ministry.

COMMUNITY DISCERNMENT | TODAY

Gather in the Fellowship Hall as a House of Hope today and August 16, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, with lunch provided, to pray, listen, share stories, and discern together. Through fun activities, we will celebrate, grieve, and dream differently and be transformed into the community of love we hope to become.

Rebecca Guengerich will facilitate the sessions, bringing Benedictine spirituality, pastoral ministry training, and spiritual formation experience to create a calm, hospitable space for open and honest reflection and courageous dreaming. Rebecca holds a Master of Pastoral Ministry from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, previously serving college-age students at LuMin and as Director of Spiritual Formation and Care Ministry at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.

COMMUNITY DISCERNMENT SCHEDULE | AUGUST 9-30

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

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS | SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

FELC began a Ministry Pause as the first phase of a Sabbath season on May 31. It's our delight once a month to recognize and pray for all with a birthday in that month. On Sunday, August 16 during the worship service, we will celebrate anyone who has a birthday in May, June, July, and August. And, following the liturgy, there will be cake! *We give God thanks for another year of grace.*

CELEBRATING PRIDE | SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

While June is worldwide Pride Month, this year FELC celebrates Pride on Sunday, August 23 during worship and hospitality! The Austin community holds its celebrations and parade on Saturday, August 22. As followers of Jesus, we extend God's welcome to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We value diversity, including sexuality, gender, and expression, and we welcome it as a spiritual gift. We aspire to create an inclusive and affirming community, and work for LGBTQIA+ justice and equity. We've been doing this work of reconciliation through FELC since 1989. Each person is sacred and valued. We are proud. And, we have even more to learn from one another. *God loves. We Love. Everyone!*

PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

students, families, educators, & staff as a new school & work year begins;
the healing of creation & renewal of life;
the family & friends of Hollis McGinnis, upon his death;
Ella Olson, mother of Pastor Gretchen Olson, preparing for palliative radiation;
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 community discernment;
for the August Stewardship theme of trust, & for the work of the committee;
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.

PRAYER FOR TRUST | AUGUST STEWARDSHIP THEME

I am an empty vessel that needs to be filled; my Lord, fill it. I am weak in faith; my Lord, strengthen me. I am cold in love; my Lord, make me fervent, that your love may go to my neighbors. When I doubt and am unable to trust you; my Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you, for you give me everything. Amen.

attributed to Martin Luther, 1483-1546

LEADERS IN LITURGY & HOSPITALITY

Ministers	All the People of God
Altar Care Server	Margaret Bruesch
Assisting Minister	Shannon Aguirre
Council Steward	Erin McCracken
Hospitality Hosts	FELC Council
Lector	Jerry Don Aguirre
Livestream Minister	J.P Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	Elijah Aguirre, oboe; Michael Marty, percussion; Cantor Bryan Rust
Presiding & Preaching	The Rev. Cecilia Suknaic
Ushers	Randy Baden, Terry Porter

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Leigh Northcutt-Benson, President
leigh.northcutt@gmail.com
Michelle Hockett-Cooper, vice President
Mari Ward, Secretary
Betsy Appleton
Paul Barlow
Charlie Boas
Larry Collmann
Lillian Martinez-Rodriguez
Erin McCracken
Pastor Katie Rode
Anne Wiebe
Joe Cain, Treasurer
Gwen Flory, Financial Secretary

STAFF

Pastor Katie Rode
512-318-2749
pastor@felcaustin.org
Cantor Bryan Rust
cantor@felcaustin.org
Church Office Administrator
Dawn Wetzel
office@felcaustin.org
Custodial Care
Teresa del Aguila & family
Bookkeeper
Melissa Kruckenberg

NOTICES

Portions of the liturgical text, liturgical music, hymns, songs, and commemorations are from Sundays and Seasons.com © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS012815. Biblical texts are from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition Bible (NRSVUE) © 1989, 2022 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America; and from the Contemporary English Version (CEV) © 1991, 1992, 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved; and from The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, and 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson. Annual License w/Podcasting Renewal, Category B #A-736003 from July 20, 2026-Jul 19, 2027. All rights reserved. To reach a broad audience, First English Lutheran Church live streams its services and events and records them for broadcast via the internet. Your attendance at a service or event constitutes your consent to be included in any filming, photographing, audio recording, or broadcast and for any other use in whole or in part, including publicity and promotion. If you wish to attend but prefer to avoid being filmed, please participate from the back pews on the side aisles.