

Sunday, August 16, 2026
The Feast of Mary, Mother of God
Word & Eucharist
10 AM - onsite & online



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

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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 ✝

Mary is perhaps the most fascinating person in the Bible for us to listen to and think about. Mary's role is not only about giving birth to Jesus and the importance of mothering him in his childhood. In John's gospel, she is among the women standing near the cross; in Acts, she is among the disciples awaiting the gift of the Spirit. The church (including Martin Luther) honors Mary with the title theotokos, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Child of God. Through all that happened, Mary continued to see how God was at work in Jesus, keeping the ancient promises to her ancestors, calling the powerful to account, and focusing on those as powerless as Mary in her time. August 15 was set as the Assumption of Mary, because of the early church's understandings that Mary was "assumed" to heaven. As Lutherans, we honor Mary, her being, her humility, her tenacity, her trust, and her life-long focus on Jesus, her dear boy, who is her risen Lord and ours.

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, and face the cross in procession.

Gathering Song in Procession

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones | ELW 424

Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858-1945

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623

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.**

Almighty God, thank you for choosing Mary to be the mother of the God-bearer, and making known your steadfast love. Grant us grace to receive that eternal Word in humility and trust, as we are made one with that Word who is Jesus, her risen Lord and ours, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Welcome to Community

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading

Isaiah 61: 7-11

⁷Because the shame of Israel in exile was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs! ⁸For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord God has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my God; my whole being shall exult in God; for the Lord God has clothed me with the garments of salvation, the Lord God has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

Response

Magnificat Jacques Berthier, 1923-1944

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord! Luke 1:46

Canon



Ma- gni-fi-cat, ma - gni-fi-cat, ma - gni-fi-cat a - ni-ma me - a Do-mi-num.

Ma - gni-fi-cat, ma - gni-fi-cat, ma - gni-fi-cat a - ni-ma me - a!

Time of Wisdom & Wonder

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

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent God's Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

We stand to welcome Christ in the gospel, and face the cross in procession.

Gospel Acclamation

Music: Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962



Verse: Hail Mary, | full of grace,* blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of | your womb Jesus. Luke 1:42

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

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:46-55 The Message translation

⁴⁶Mary said, “I’m bursting with God-news; I’m dancing the song of my Savior God! God took one good look at me, and look what happened—I’m the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others. God’s mercy flows in wave after wave on those who are in awe before him. God bared an arm and showed strength, scattered the bluffing braggarts. God knocked tyrants off their high horses, pulled victims out of the mud. The starving poor sat down to a banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold. God embraced God’s chosen child, Israel; it is God who remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high. It’s exactly what God promised, beginning with Sarah and Abraham and right up to now.”

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

We repeat the Gospel Acclamation.

Sermon

We stand.

Hymn of the Day

Toda la Tierra | ELW 266
Text/Music: Albert Taule, 1932-2007

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✝

Birthday Blessing

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

Welcome to Offering

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

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

Offering Song

With Mary Sing Magnificat



1 With Mar - y sing Ma - gni - fi - cat; with
 2 The One who hon - ored Riz - pah's stand a -
 3 With con - fi - dence we may pro - claim Love's

Mir - iam dance in praise; with proph - et An - na
 gainst a king's de - cree and bol - stered clev - er
 lib - er - at - ing pow'r, bear wit - ness to the

speak a word of faith in joy a - blaze, for
 mid - wives' plans to foil bru - tal - i - ty re -
 sav - ing grace still with us ev - 'ry hour, and

love and mer - cy shall pre - vail; no
 mains through con - flict, doubt, and fear our
 sing with thanks, de - light, and praise a

need shall be ig - nored; the lost shall find their
 Ad - vo - cate and Friend; each grief and loss shall
 new yet an - cient song; to - geth - er sing ma -

home a - gain and ev - 'ry hope re - stored.
 be re - deemed; each pain - ful wound shall mend.
 gni - fi - cat with voic - es clear and strong.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm
 Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune
 Text © 2000 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

The Bible story of Miriam is found in Exodus, chapter 2; she was a key leader and sister of Moses and Aaron. The story of Anna is found in Luke, chapter 2. The story of Rizpah is found in 2nd Samuel, chapter 21 and is a powerful account of a mother's fierce love and silent protest.

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, 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

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am | ELW 814

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak | ELW 676

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810-1856

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

***The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* | ELW 551**

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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 today 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. Facilitated by Rebecca Guengerich.

COMMUNITY DISCERNMENT | AUGUST 23-30

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

MICAH 6

We are accepting donations of canned goods, and summer clothing, shoes, and belts for men and women. The number of shoppers averages 100 on Thursdays, 5-7 PM and Saturday, 9:30-10:30 AM. Sign up to help at the food pantry at micah6austin.org. To take donations to the Food Pantry or the Drop-in Center, contact Andy MacLaren, andymaclaren@cs.com or 512-947-4186. The Drop-in Center serves 30-35 individuals every Saturday, 2-4 PM. FELC is serving the meal at the Drop-in Center on Saturday, August 22. To serve with the FELC community at the drop-in center, contact Heidi Goebel, heidigoebel@sbcglobal.net. Thanks for your long-term support!

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;
those affected by the earthquake in Columbia;
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 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
Crucifer	Jerry Don Aguirre
Hospitality Hosts	FELC Council
Lector	Harper Fuerst
Livestream Minister	J.P Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	Elijah Aguirre, oboe; Michael Marty, percussion; Cantor Bryan Rust
Presiding & Preaching	The Rev. Cecie Suknaic Saulnier
Ushers	Randy Baden, Terry Porter

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

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Michelle Hockett-Cooper, Vice President
Mari Ward, Secretary
Betsy Appleton
Paul Barlow
Charlie Boas
Larry Collmann
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NOTICES

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