

Sunday, September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Word & Eucharist
10 AM - onsite & online



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

3001 Whitis Avenue
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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.

Conflict is a part of relationships and it's part of life in community. Jesus' words in the gospel story this Sunday from Matthew 18:15-20 are often used in matters of church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel (33:7-10) tells of the wicked turning from their ways. Sin and brokenness are realities of our beautiful humanity. Saint Paul reminds us in Romans 13:8-12 that love is the fulfilling of the law of God's justice. It's real, and at times, it's really hard. The good news is that we together, not only one person individually or a small group, are Christ's real presence. We trust that Christ is truly among us all, offering the gifts of his peace and reconciliation. These gifts are meant to be shared. These gifts build hope, and hope is active. Hope is not false positivity. Hope takes work, too. Let's pray to recognize God's Spirit, who is already supplying the energy to do this work faithfully.

Cantor Bryan Rust

In our call and response, everyone is invited to pray aloud the text in bold print.

Gathering Music

Christ, Our Peace

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;

Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: CHRIST, OUR PEACE, Marty Haugen

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Singing bowls sound throughout the liturgy, calling us to prayer.

*The songs and hymns are found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), the red worship book in the pew.
We stand, as able.*

Gathering Song

Come Now, O Prince of Peace | ELW 247

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope

Music: OSOSO, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947

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. Amen.

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 Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Text Ordinary of the Mass; Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797-1826
©1989 GIA Publications, Inc.

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.**

Lord God, enliven and preserve your whole church with your continual mercy. Without your help, we will fail. Remove far from us everything that is harmful and keep us in all that brings life and salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns, now and forever. **Amen.**

Be seated.

Welcome to Community

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading

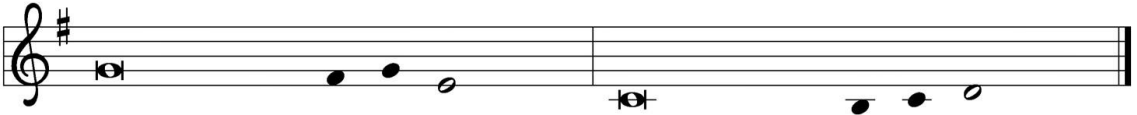
Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

Response

Psalm 119:33-40



³³ Teach me O Lord the way¹ of your statutes,
and I shall keep it¹ to the end.

**34 Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

**³⁶ Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from be-¹ holding falsehood;
give me life¹ in your way.

**38 Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach¹ that I dread,
because your judg-¹ments are good.

**⁴⁰ Behold I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me.**

Time of Wisdom & Wonder

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

Second Reading

Romans 13:8-12

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep.

For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

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

We stand to welcome Christ in the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Text: John 6:68; James Capers, 1948-2025



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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

Sermon

We stand, as able.

Hymn of the Day

***Beloved, God's Chosen* | ELW 648** *A soloist sings stanza 1.*

Text: Susan Palo Cherwin, 1953-2021; Music: Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962

Prayers of Intercession

Following each intercession: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A list of prayer concerns and joys is found on page 14.

Prayer Remembering September 11, 2001

Gracious God, as we remember twenty-five years since the tragedy of September 11th, many lives still carry the memory of sudden loss, shock, and sorrow. We remember the souls of all who died in New York, at the Pentagon, and in the fields of Pennsylvania. Hold them in your eternal embrace. Wrap their families and loved ones in your enduring comfort. Be with those who still suffer and live with the effects of that day. Grant them strength, healing, and solace. Thank you for the courage of the first responders—the firefighters, police, rescue crews, and ordinary citizens—who ran toward danger and laid down their lives for others. May their selflessness inspire our communities to be united in compassion. Empower us to welcome the faith and goodwill of all people. Teach us to be bearers of light in a fractured world. Turn us from hatred and fear, and move us to your justice, kindness, and lasting peace; we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.

✠MEAL✠

Welcome to Communion & 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.

Blessing of a Musical Instrument

Gabriel's Oboe Ennio Morricone, 1928-2020

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

Offering Song

All My Hope on God is Founded | ELW 757

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt

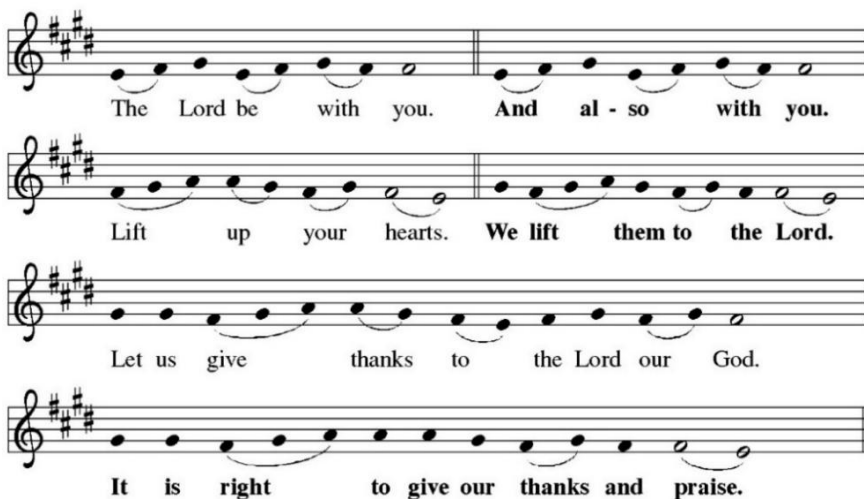
Music: Herbert Howells, 1892-1983

This hymn was sung at the National Prayer Service at the Washington National Cathedral on Friday, September 14, 2001, and in many other places world-wide that week.

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.

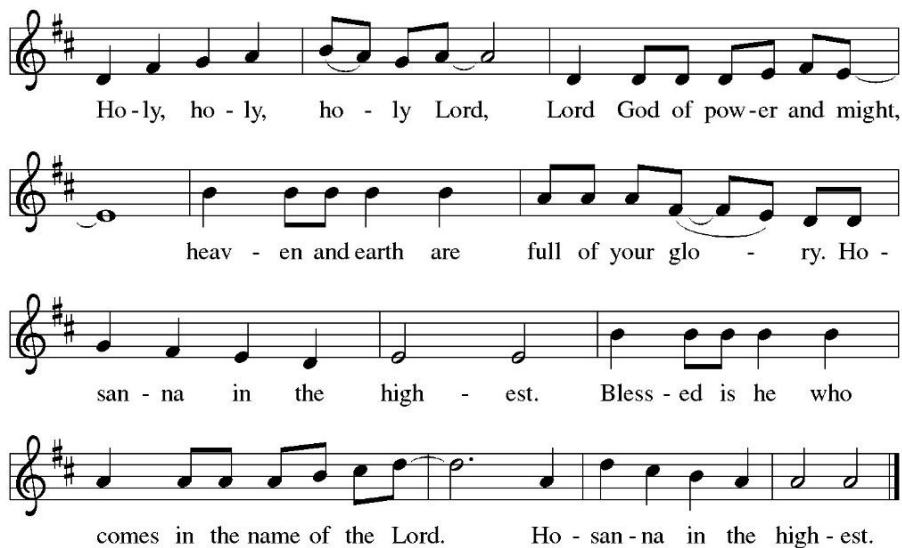
Great Thanksgiving



It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

James Capers, 1948-2025



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 Music: Tillis Butler, 1941-2002

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

Sonata III G. F. Handel, 1685-1759

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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing | ELW 543

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh; arr. R. Vaughan Williams

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.



PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

Henri Atkinson, for healing;
Rory Kelley & family, son-in-law of Donna & Don Wright, as Rory is in cancer treatment;
Pastor Gretchen Olson & family, on the death of her mother, Ella Olson;
Barbara Wiederaenders, as she continues to heal & adjust to new ways of living;
Jewish friends & neighbors preparing to celebrate Rosh Hashanah;
remembering the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001;
Micah 6 food ministries & Drop-in Center;
those recovering from earthquakes, fires, & flooding;
FELC community, as we give thanks & celebrate God's abundance;
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, & spiritual, health, & employment needs.

LEADERS IN LITURGY & HOSPITALITY

Ministers	All the People of God
Altar Care Server	Barbara Schutz
Assisting Minister	Charlie Boas
Council Steward	Charlie Boas
Hospitality Hosts	Nancy & Randy Baden
Lector	Nancy Neuse
Livestream Minister	J.P Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	Cantor Bryan Rust; Elijah Aguirre, oboe; Don Wright, recorder; Oliver Rajamani, percussion; Lillian Martinez-Rodriguez, soloist Michael Marty, trumpet
Presiding & Preaching	Pastor Katie Rode
Ushers	Randy Baden, Terry Porter

PRAYER | SEPTEMBER STEWARDSHIP THEME: GIVE & RECEIVE

From the light of God that I am, from the love of God that I am, from the power of God that I am, from the heart of God that I am, may I give and receive God's abundance in all of life.
Amen.

CELEBRATION OF ABUNDANCE SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 20

September 20, 2026, is Celebration of Abundance Sunday! On this day, as we express gratitude for all that God provides, we will offer our financial commitments to support FELC's ministry in 2027. An image of the financial commitment card is included below for reflection. Physical cards will be available on September 13 and 20 and will be offered during the worship service on September 20. We will welcome Deacon John Dellis as our guest preacher. Following worship, the stewardship committee will host a Lunch & Learn about Legacy Generosity, presented by Signe Fredrickson, Gift Planner with the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest. Legacy generosity is a wonderful way to bless future generations. Plan to attend worship and Lunch & Learn on Sunday, September 20.

2027 Financial Commitment

Gracious God,

Out of gratitude for all that you provide,

I commit from my abundance \$ _____

With faith in Christ,

Giving Individual/Household (*Please PRINT*)

*Committed offerings will support FELC's 2027 ministry budget, to be given: weekly / monthly / annually
(Please circle one)*

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Leigh Northcutt-Benson, President
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Michele Hockett Cooper, Vice President
Mari Ward, Secretary
Betsy Appleton
Charlie Boas
Larry Collmann
Lillian Martinez-Rodriguez
Erin McCracken
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Anne Wiebe
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Teresa del Aguila & family
Bookkeeper
Melissa Kruckenberg

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