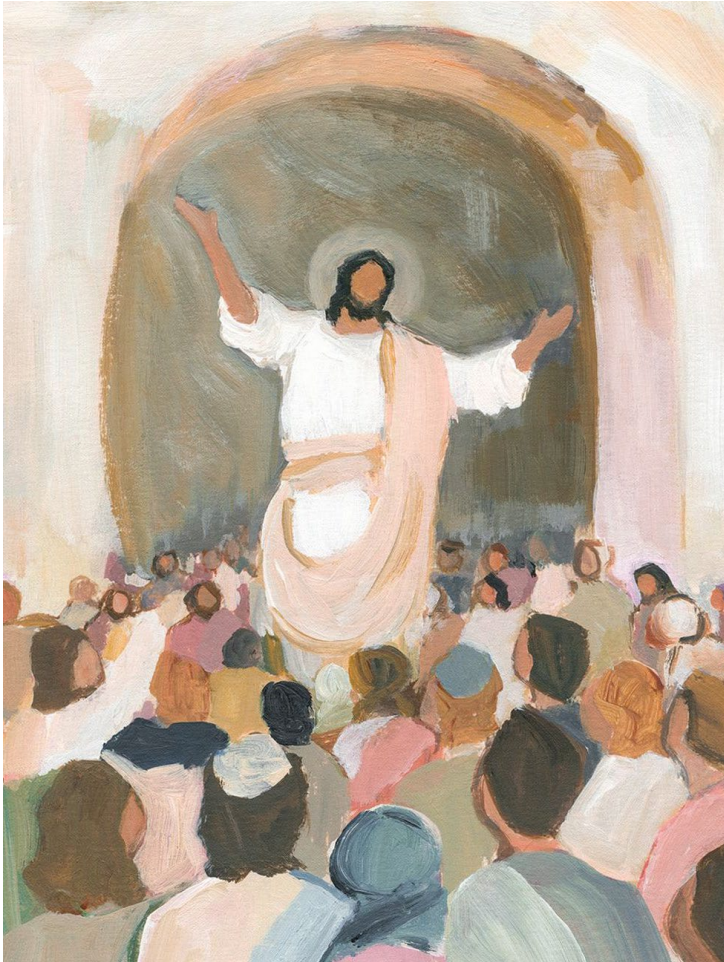


Sunday, September 27, 2026
18th Sunday after Pentecost
Word & Eucharist | 10 AM - onsite & online



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.

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises about the ways of God. In the bible story from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Saint Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others more than our own. Jesus tells a parable about doing God's will. Doing God's will does take listening and discernment. And then it takes action. We can't only talk about God's will. We're invited to do God's will. Our being in God's grace does not depend on our doing, neither are we removed from living that grace daily. We offer our lives, in thanksgiving, for the sake of God's beautiful and hurting world. We're encouraged to wear Orange this Sunday to remember the thousands of First Nations children who were removed from their families and forcibly placed into church and government sponsored boarding schools. – Cantor Bryan Rust

*In our call and response, everyone is invited to pray aloud the text in bold print.
We remain seated and join in the gathering music.*

Gathering Music

Gloria

Pablo Sosa, b. 1933



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.

Rite of Smudging

Smudging is often the first step in many First Nations ceremonies. It helps bring the participants into the present, leaving behind the stress of their lives and other distractions. There's no limit to the situations where smudging can be of benefit. Incense is also portrayed in the Bible as visual prayers offered to God.

Gathering Song

Many and Great, O God | ELW 837

Text: Joseph R. Renville, 1779-1846; para. Philip Frazier, 1892-1964, alt.

Music: LAC QUI PARLE, Dakota tune; arr. Songs of the People, 1986

Greeting

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.**

Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you declare your power chiefly in showing mercy. Grant us the fullness of your healing grace, that we, trusting your promises, may faithfully do your will; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns, now and forever. **Amen.**

Be seated.

Welcome to Community

✚ WORD ✚

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. ²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Palabra de Dios. **Te alabamos, Señor.**



¹To | you, O Lord,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O Lord,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember O Lord your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- | ness O Lord.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way**

⁹**You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.**

Time of Wisdom & Wonder

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

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God. ¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for God's good pleasure.

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

We stand to welcome Christ in the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Victor Jortack, b. 1952

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya! A - le - lu - ya!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

Sermon

We stand, as able.

Hymn of the Day

O Master, Let Me Walk with You | ELW 818

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt
Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

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 17.

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 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.

Offering Music

Teach Me, O Lord Music: Thomas Attwood, 1765-1838

Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

Psalm 119:33

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

Offering Song

God, Here is My Life and My Will

Refrain

God, here is my life and my will.

Give me the knowl - edge of your will for me.

Give me the pow - er to car - ry it out.

God, here is my life and my will.

Text: Michael Cotter and Jeremy Young
Music: COTTER, Jeremy Young

Offering Prayer

Gracious 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 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 . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

San - to, san - to, san - to, *es* el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; *san - to, es* el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, *san - to, es* el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; *san - to, es* el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the

nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.

di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, gracious God . . . do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim together the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Awaken in us and in this meal your life-giving Spirit, whose breath revives us for abundant life, and whose fire rouses us to love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Through Christ, with Christ, $\mp$ in Christ, in the unity and power of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, most gracious God, in the church and in the world, 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 Victor Jortack

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, have . . mer-cy up - on us, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros. have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, have . . mer-cy up - on us, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros. have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da - nos tu paz, grant us your peace, da - nos tu paz. grant us your 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

Romanze & Sonatina in G Major (Anh. 6, No. 1) Ludwig Van Beethoven, 1770-1827

Aria David Kellner, 1670-1748

We are pleased to include a Flemish virginal in today's worship service. Such instruments (a type of harpsichord) were common from about 1575 to 1650. This one was built by David Francis, and you are invited to view it following the close of the liturgy.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, thank you for blessing and nourishing us with the riches of your grace. Send us to proclaim your love in a hurting and beautiful world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Welcome to Hospitality

Sending Song

Enviado soy de Dios | ELW 538

Text/Music: Central America, translated: Gerhard Cartford, 1923-2016

The first two lines and the last four lines are repeated each time.

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta - es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
pa - ra cons-truir con él un mun-do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain
un mun-do de do - lor por un mun-do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;
me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.
A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Blessing & Sending in Mission

May the blessing of God, Creator, ✠ Redeemer, and Sustainer, continue with you, and all those you love, serve, and pray for, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Hospitality Time

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 DONNA WRIGHT

The Rev. Donna Wright was baptized at nine years of age at Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, along with her mother and two siblings. Donna went on to be active in the Lutheran Church in America and then the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. After her confirmation at King of Glory in Carmel, Indiana, she was active in the youth ministry program in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod where she met a young Pastor Bob Karli. Following graduation from Indiana State University (when Larry Bird was there!) and Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, Donna lived and worked in the Los Angeles area before attending Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary with husband, R. Don Wright. Their calls to ministry took them to Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Their calls to family brought them to the Austin area, as daughter, son-in-law, and grands live in Elgin. She is delighted to be a member of First English and contribute to God's work in this place – as “the whole creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.”

PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

the family & friends of Leon Noren, upon his death;
the family & friends of Jon Mogonye, friends of Kate & Stefan Wanstrom, upon his death;
Margaret VanAntwerp, friend of Kate Wanstrom, for healing and wholeness;
Rory Kelley & family, son-in-law of Donna & Don Wright, as Rory is in cancer treatment;
Barbara Wiederaenders, as she continues to heal & adjust to new ways of living;
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.

ST. FRANCIS & BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS | OCTOBER 4

On Sunday, October 4, everyone is invited to bring their leashed and contained pets for a blessing of the animals during the worship service, a St. Francis Feast Day tradition. Dogs, cats, frogs, gerbils, snakes, birds, and hamsters, among others, will be invited for an individual blessing. Animal toys, photos, and mementos will also be blessed.

2026 FALL MUSIC EVENTS at FELC:

VOCES ANGELORUM & TEXAS EARLY MUSIC PROJECT: O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026, 3 PM

Experience a unique collaboration with Voces Angelorum, a consort of voices that will celebrate the beauty of our choral tradition with singers drawn from TEMP and from afar. This first program of Voces Angelorum will include works by William Byrd, Thomas Tallis, Henry Purcell, Stephen Paulus, and Morten Lauridsen. Ryland Angel and Daniel Johnson, conductors. Free Admission - \$25 suggested donation per person.

UT REPERTORY CHORUS | MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 5 PM

Delight in the sounds of musicians from UT's Butler School of Music. This choir serves as a laboratory chorus for the master's and doctoral students in choral conducting at UT, along with upper division undergraduate students majoring in music education. Free Admission.

AUSTIN CANTORUM: VISIONARY | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 8 PM

Experience a choral TRIP featuring music from and inspired by the Johns Hopkins Psilocybin Playlist. This concert follows the arc of a psychedelic journey while exploring the research being done on the use of psychedelics to benefit people who suffer from PTSD, addiction, and other issues. With vocalist Page Stephens, guitarist Justice Phillips, and pianist Luciano Laurentiu. Free admission - \$25 suggested donation per person.

Please Register: www.austincantorum.com

CHORUS AUSTIN CAMBER ENSEMBLE: SONGS FOR THE JOURNEY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 8 PM | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 4 PM

Join Chorus Austin's Chamber Ensemble for SONGS FOR THE JOURNEY, an evening of choral music exploring the paths we take, the places we discover, and the stories we carry with us. For tickets: www.chorusaustin.org

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.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

National Hispanic American Heritage Month 2026 takes place from September 15 to October 15. The starting date of September 15 honors the independence anniversaries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico, Chile, and Belize also celebrate their independence days shortly after (September 16 and 18). This celebration began “Hispanic Heritage Week” under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and expanded to a full month under President Ronald Reagan in 1988. We give thanks for the unique histories, cultures, and ongoing contributions of all people with these ancestral roots. In our worship for September and October, we will experience language and music from these various traditions.

LEADERS IN LITURGY & HOSPITALITY

Ministers	All the People of God
Altar Care Server	Barbara Schutz
Assisting Minister	Shannon Aguirre
Council Stewards	Leigh Northcutt-Benson, Anne Wiebe
Hospitality Hosts	Merrily Porter
Lector	Jerry Don Aguirre, Lois Holck
Livestream Minister	J.P Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Margaret Bruesch, flute; David Francis, harpsichord builder; Michael Marty, trumpet; Oliver Rajamani, percussion; Anne Wiebe, soloist Cantor Bryan Rust
Preaching & Presiding	The Rev. Donna Wright
Ushers	Randy Baden, Terry Porter
<i>The flowers are offered to the glory of God in thanksgiving for the birthdays of Lois Holck, Emily Marty, and all September birthday beloveds.</i>	

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Leigh Northcutt-Benson, President
leigh.northcutt@gmail.com
Michele Hockett Cooper, Vice President
Mari Ward, Secretary
Betsy Appleton
Charlie Boas
Larry Collmann
Lillian Martinez-Rodriguez
Erin McCracken
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Melissa Kruckenberg

NOTICES

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