

Worship in Community
Sabbath Ministry Pause Week Nine Transition
Sunday, July 26, 2026 | 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. For more on our life and witness, 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 the sanctuary, with two options: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids; please connect with the minister for a hearing assistance device. **Seat cushions**, for use on the wood pews and chairs 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 and transformed as the people of God. Liturgy is a Greek word translated “the work of the people of God” as we gather. FELC holds the 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. There are various formats and styles to this framework. **During our transition from a Sabbath Ministry Pause to Community Discernment**, the worship service is thematic, and does not include the regular, fuller liturgical experience. This Time after Pentecost Day opens opportunities to grow in the Spirit of God.

Tending What Has Been Entrusted

May 31 – July 26 – a worship & sermon series

Theme: Returning to Community

First English Lutheran Church has been in an eight-week pause of its ministry activities of learning, witness, service, and support. We have engaged in individual reflection and discernment about future mission and the faithful stewarding of our resources. As we begin our 91st year of ministry in Austin, we seek to be intentional about shaping the next season of God's mission in this place. To connect, contact Pastor Katie Rode, pastor@felcaustin.org.

Gathering in Music

We stand, as able.

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

Gathering in Community

The ancient prophet Isaiah proclaims: *If you call the Sabbath a delight, and the holy day of the Lord honorable, then you shall take delight in the Lord.* (Isaiah 58: vv.13b, 14a)

God, we call upon your presence in creation and in each person.

Open our lips,

and our mouths will proclaim your praise.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

as we live abundantly all our days.

We give you glory, our light and our life.

We come to worship and praise.

The songs are found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), the red worship book in the pew.

Gathering in Song

***Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* | ELW 807**

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

Gathering in Prayer

God dwells with you. **And also with you.**

God of all grace, through the death and resurrection of Jesus you bring all creation into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Holy Spirit, build up in us your wisdom and discernment. Grant us your joy, that, as we proclaim the gospel with energy and purpose, we will treasure the rich diversity of abundant life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sharing Christ's Peace

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

We greet each other with gentle signs of reconciliation, peace, and love. This exchange of peace within the gathered community is an ancient Christian practice that builds and renews relationships.

Following sharing the Peace, we sit, as able.

Welcome to Community

Song

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Text/Music: Psalm 136:1; Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994, Taizé, France

Sung repeatedly in any language.

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps). It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are written below the staves, with syllables aligned to the notes. The first system contains the first line of the song. The second system contains the second line, which includes a bridge section. The third system contains the final line, 'al-le-lu-ia.', which is repeated twice. The music features a simple, rhythmic melody with a steady pulse, typical of Taizé's style. The lyrics are in Spanish, reflecting the text 'Psalm 136:1' mentioned in the header.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni -
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O
Llé na - nos Se - ñor, de tu paz, por - que só - lo

am bo - nus. Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no,
Lord, are ho - ly. Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
e - res san - to. Llé - na - nos Se - ñor, de tu paz,

al - le - lu - - - ia.

A Time of Wisdom & Wonder

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

A reading from the ancient evangelist Luke.

Jesus told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sharing the Word of God

We stand as able.

Song

Build Us Up, Lord | ELW 670

Text & Music: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, & Donna Hanna, b. 1952

We sit, as able.

Ministry Moment

Offering Our Lives

Offering Music

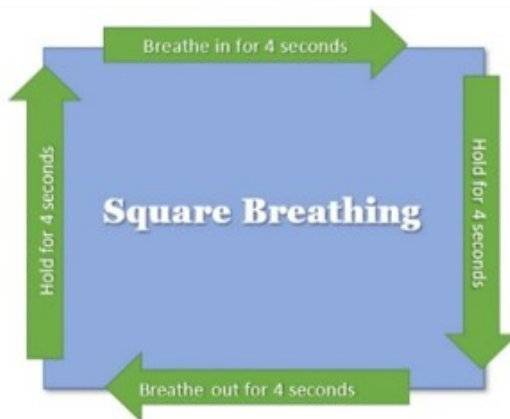
Offering Our Breathing & Prayer

Week Nine Focus Words: *abundance, thanksgiving*

*We pray to & listen for God: for the earth; the nations;
the poor, ill, oppressed, lonely, unhoused, homebound,
imprisoned, bereaved, & joyful; for justice & mercy;
for the communities where we live, worship, play, & work;
for ourselves, our loved ones, & our enemies;
& for the sorrows, thanksgivings, & hopes we bring today.*

For additional prayers, please see ELW pages 72-87 in the front of the red worship book.

You are also invited to view the icons in the Chapel of the Saints as a focus for prayer.



Prayer Concerns & Joys

As a community of faith, we pray for:

the healing of creation & renewal of life;

Barbara Wiederaenders, for healing;

Carl Brockman, for healing;

the First English community, in this time of transition from Ministry Pause
to Community Discernment.

all who travel this summer, for safe journeys, meaningful experiences,
& joyful homecomings;

places experiencing violence, war, oppression, disaster, conflict & recovery;

those affected by gun violence;

those who advocate for healing, safety, justice, inclusion, peace & equity;

citizens & leaders of, immigrants, & refugees to the United States;

all in need of safe shelter & nourishing food & for those who offer it;

all living with addiction, cancer, grief, & with spiritual, health, & employment needs.

We stand, as able.

Celebrating Christ's Meal in Thanksgiving

The Lord is 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 God thanks and praise!**

In the night in which he was given to death, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the
forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We call on the gift of your holy Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal;
among all people; throughout the world.

Praise, blessing, and thanks to you, God of all grace, through Christ Jesus,
✠ by your life-changing Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by that same Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

**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 and share this bread to be the body of Christ.

We will love one another as Christ loves us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us and grant us peace. Amen.

We sit.

Welcome to Communion Distribution & Blessing

This is Christ's table. Christ is the host. All are welcome. We encourage you to participate in ways that are meaningful for you.

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

Communion Music

***Ubi Caritas* | ELW 642**

Text: Latin antiphon, 9th cent.; Taize Community; tr. *With One Voice*

Music: TAIZE UBI CARITAS, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

***The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies* | ELW 683**

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: JAG KAN ICKE RAKNA DEM ALLA, Albert Lindstrom, 1853-1955

We stand, as able.

Sending in Prayer

God of all grace, thank you for gifting us with your compassion, vulnerability, and forgiveness. We've received and shared your holy Word of wisdom and been nurtured in the Spirit. May the joy of this meal and blessing so work in us, that, as we leave this gathering, the fruits of your love will show forth in our lives. **Amen.**

Sending in Song

***Now Thank We All Our God* | ELW 840**

Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Cruger, 1598-1662

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

Sending in Blessing

In work and worship, play and rest, God is with us.

Gathered and scattered, settled and wandering, God is with us.

May we go into the world filled with the Spirit of God:

who made us, ✠ who loves us, and who empowers us, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending in Mission

We go to bless the world with God's love.

Thanks be to God!

Sending in Music

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 the staff, contact Pastor Katie Rode, pastor@felcaustin.org. If you are new to the FELC community, use the QR code to connect.



Community Discernment | Sabbath Phase Two

The following are fellowship and discernment events, scheduled to begin after worship on each Sunday in August. These gatherings are designed for our community to reflect on what we have learned and begin discerning the future of First English together. The Council will meet Monday, July 27 and communicate further details regarding the August discernment gatherings following that meeting.

August 2: 90th Anniversary Celebration & Community Potluck

You are invited to bring a treasured family recipe like the one you reflected on in week four of the Ministry Pause and begin sharing your individual reflections conversationally in fellowship.

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

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

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

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

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

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