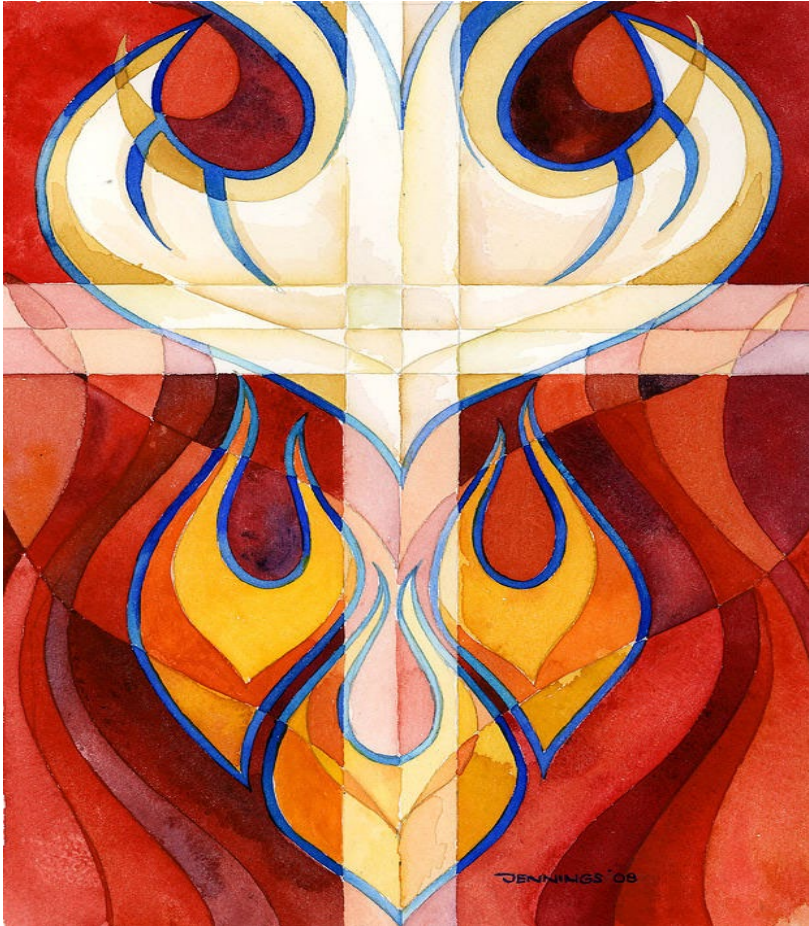


Sunday, October 25, 2026
The Festival of the Reformation
Word & Eucharist
10 AM - onsite & online



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.

At the festival of the Reformation we remember the heart of Christian faith and discipleship: the gospel of Christ, which is all grace. By the end of the 17th century, many Lutheran congregations observed the posting of the Ninety-five Theses by Martin Luther, German priest, theologian, seminary professor, hymn writer, husband, and father (1483-1546). The Theses were a summary of concerns and abuses in the church of Luther's time, and a challenge from Luther to follow the gospel. This posting, offered on the church in Wittenberg, Germany, was done on October 31, the eve of the Feast of All Saints' (all Hallows' Eve) as many would see it when attending Mass on the Feast Day, November 1. In our time, we pray that the Holy Spirit continues to empower the whole church in our witness. The primary church color red reminds us of the fire, strength, and challenge of the Holy Spirit. – *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

Nun Bitten Wir

(BuxWV 208) arr. by Dieterich Buxtehude, 1637-1707

Tune: Johann Walter, 1496-1570; Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Text for meditation:

We now beg the Holy Spirit for true belief above all,
so that the Spirit may watch over us until we travel home from this world. Lord, have mercy.

Etude

Anonymous

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. The cross moves in procession from the main entrance.

Gathering Song in Procession

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

Martin Luther

Etlich Christlich Lieder, 1524



- 1 Dear Chris - tians, one and all, re - joice, with ex - ul - ta - tion
- 2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay, death brood - ed fierce - ly
- 3 O God, you saw my deep dis - tress be - fore the world's foun -
- 4 You said to your be - lov - ed Son: "'Tis time to have com -



spring - ing, and, with u - nit - ed heart and voice and ho - ly
o'er me, sin was my tor - ment night and day; in sin my
da - tion, and, with your mer - cy mea - sure - less, you planned for
pas - sion. Then go, bright jew - el of my crown, and bring to



rap - ture sing - ing, pro - claim the won - ders God has done, pro -
moth - er bore me. My own good works all came to naught, free
my sal - va - tion. You turned to me a fa - ther's heart; you
all sal - va - tion; from sin and sor - row set them free; slay



claim the vic - t'ry God has won, how pre - cious was our ran - som!
will a - gainst God's judg - ment fought, so firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.
did not choose the eas - y part, but gave your dear - est trea - sure.
bit - ter death for them that they may live with you for - ev - er."

Confession & Forgiveness

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

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

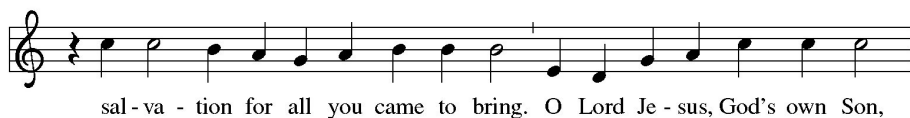
Silence is kept for reflection.

Source of all life,
we confess that we have sinned against you and one another in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We fear that we are not good enough. We receive your love freely given, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving the church outward. Forgive us. Transform us. Lead us. Renew us in your powerful love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

In Christ, we are set free to love joyfully, serve faithfully, and live abundantly. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Kyrie

Text: Latin, c. 1100; Kyrie fons bonitatis, c. 800
Used as an option in Martin Luther's German Mass, January 1526



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

Almighty God, gracious Lord, thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to renew the church in every age. Pour out that Spirit on all your people. Keep us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us in times of trial, defend us against all enemies of the gospel, and give to the whole church your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Be seated.

Welcome to Community

✝ WORD ✝

First Reading

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

¹The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²“Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. ¹⁵“You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord. ¹⁷“You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.”

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm is chanted responsively.

Response

Psalm 1



¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law | of the Lord,
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither;
everything they | do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so | with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

⁶ **For the Lord knows the way | of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

Time of Wisdom & Wonder

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

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

¹ You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain,
² but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³ For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴ but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. ⁵ As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, ⁶ nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷ though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸ So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

We welcome Christ in the gospel. We face the cross, in procession.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

Michael Krentz (b. 1954); based on Ein Feste Burg

A soloist sings the Alleluia first, then all repeat.



Today salvation has come | to this house,* for the Son of Man came to seek out and to | save the lost. Luke 19:9,10

*The gospel is announced, ending with: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:34-46

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” ⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴ ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet” ’? ⁴⁵ “If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

We repeat the Gospel Acclamation.

Sermon

We stand, as able.

Hymn of the Day

The Church of Christ, in Every Age | ELW 729

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698-1768

Apostle's Creed

Let us affirm the baptismal faith of the whole church.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, ✝ and the life everlasting. Amen.

A list of prayer concerns and joys is found on page 19.

Prayers of Intercession

Intercessions conclude with: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sharing the Peace

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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685--1750

Jesu, joy of man's desiring, holy Wisdom, love most bright;
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring soar to uncreated light.
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, with the fire of life impassioned,
Striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying round Thy throne.

Original text: Martin Janus, 1620-1682

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

Offering Song

A Mighty Fortress | ELW 504

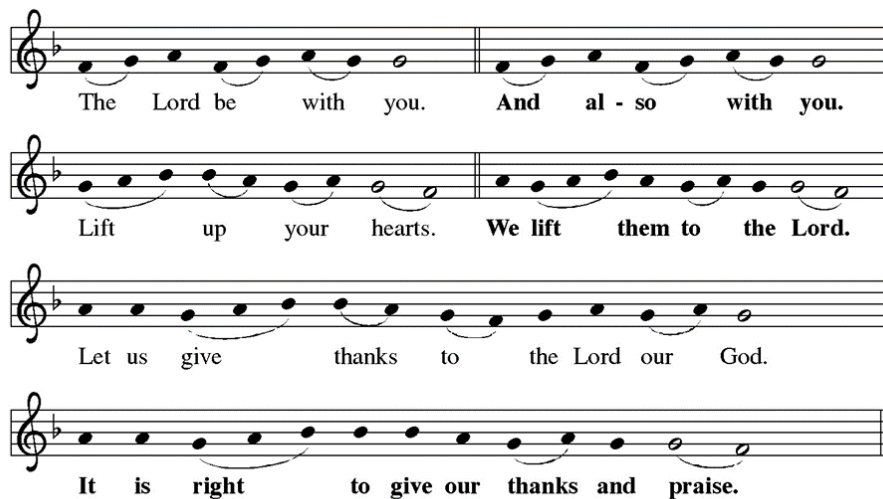
Text/Music: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Offering Prayer

A Table Blessing from Luther's Small Catechism. 1529

The eyes of all wait upon You, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season;
You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Psalm 145:15-16
Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through 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.

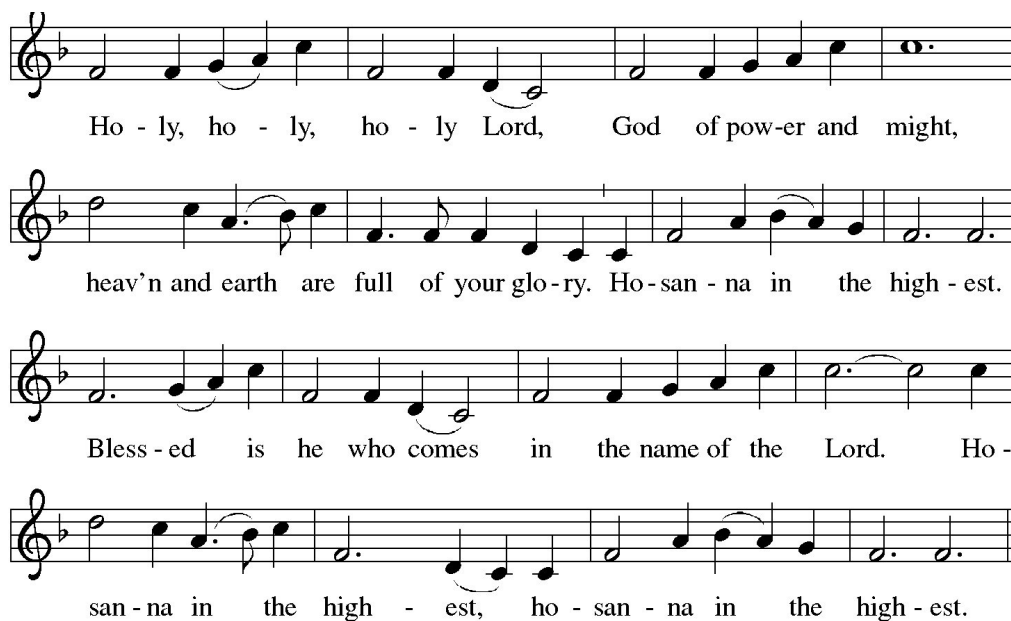
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line.

Thanksgiving at the Table

We praise you, all-holy God . . . and all who continue to reform and renew.

We praise you, all-holy God, for Jesus Christ, who saves us from sin and evil, embodying forgiveness, granting us grace, setting us free, who on the night . . . in remembrance of me.

And so, as we remember Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in this meal, let us proclaim together the mystery of faith:

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

We pray, all-holy God, for your Spirit, ☩ your breath, your fire, your freedom. Bless this meal and all those who share it; inspire your people for service; continue the reformation of Christ's church; and renew the world with your mercy, your healing, your justice, and your peace. We praise you, all-holy God, mighty fortress and faithful companion, today, tomorrow, and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

**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

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God

Text: German, 1528, based on Agnus Dei

Music: Christe, Du Lamm Gottes, 1528

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and homophonic. The lyrics are in German and English. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,". The second staff continues: "have mer - cy up-on us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak -". The third staff continues: "est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up-on us!". The fourth staff continues: "O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,". The fifth staff concludes with: "grant us thy peace! A - men".

O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,
have mer - cy up-on us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak -
est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up-on us!
O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,
grant us thy peace! A - men

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.

We are grateful to experience a virginal harpsichord, handcrafted and designed by David Francis.
You're invited to observe the harpsichord following the worship service.

Communion Music

Adagio in F Benedetto Marcello, 1686-1739

Siciliana from Partita II Georg Philipp Telemann, 1681-1767

Prayer after Communion

A Table Blessing from Luther's Small Catechism

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.

God's mercy endures forever.

Psalm 136:1

We thank you, heavenly Father, for all your benefits, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
for you live and reign, now and forever. **Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Welcome to Hospitality

Sending Song

***God of Grace and God of Glory* | ELW 705**

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

Blessing & Dismissal to Mission

Text: Wm. Sloane Coffin, 1924-2006

God give you grace never to sell yourself short. Grace to risk something big for
something good. Grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything
but truth, and too small for anything but love; may the blessing of God, Creator, ✠
Christ, and Comforter, be with you, 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.



PRAYER | OCTOBER STEWARDSHIP THEME: BLESSING

Creator of All, unite us. Stream of Justice, trouble us. Path of Righteousness, turn us. Singer of Love, teach us. Binder of Wounds, heal us. Freer of Captives, release us. Light of Light, awaken us. Bread of Life, feed us. God in all, bless us. Amen.

LEADERS IN LEARNING, LITURGY, & HOSPITALITY

Ministers	All the People of God
Adult Faith Formation	Pastor Katie Rode, Pastor Don Wright
Altar Care Server	Barbara Schutz
Assisting Minister	Betsy Appleton
Bell Banner	Heidi Goebel
Council Stewards	Larry Collmann, Anne Wiebe
Crucifer	Jerry Don Aguirre
Hospitality Hosts	Hospitality Team
Lector	Nancy Neuse
Livestream Minister	J.P Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Michael Marty, trumpet; Eli Aguirre, oboe; Oliver Rajamani, percussion; Margaret Bruesch, flute; Don Wright, recorder; David Francis, harpsicord builder; Cantor Bryan Rust
Preaching & Presiding	Pastor Katie Rode
Ushers	Terry Porter
The flowers are given to the glory of God by the congregation, in celebration of October birthdays, including Pastor Katie Rode’s birthday on October 15.	

CHORUS AUSTIN CHAMBER ENSEMBLE: SONGS FOR THE JOURNEY | TODAY | 4 PM

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

GUEST NIGHT WITH A CAPPELLA TEXAS | OCTOBER 29

Singers in the ATX area: join our community music partner —A Cappella—for Guest Night on Thursday, October 29 at 7 pm at FELC. All are welcome for a night of 4-part harmony singing! Learn about the chorus and the magical thing called barbershop harmony. For more information, contact: membership@acappellatexas.org.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY & OFRENDAS | NOVEMBER 1

We celebrate the Feast of All Saints - a time to remember and give thanks for the saints in our lives and in the world. As part of the observance, we will read the names of those from FELC who have died since the last All Saints' Sunday. **We invite and encourage everyone to bring photos, drawings, and/or mementos** to place on an Altar of Remembrance (Ofrenda) in the Chapel of the Saints, and to write the names of anyone who has died in the past year in the Book of the Dead. The sacred space of remembrance will remain in the Chapel through November. **If you would like the name/s of anyone who has died read in the liturgy on November 1, please email the church office (office@felcaustin.org) by Tuesday, October 27.**

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS AT 2 AM ON NOVEMBER 1.

FELC FALL FESTIVAL | NOVEMBER 1

All are welcome to celebrate together, starting at 5 pm with Austin Polka Band and KarliHaus brew, followed by Brats, Schnitzel and your favorite dish. This year let's share our abundance with a gift to Micah 6. Cans of food and men's shoes and clothing. To help with preparations, please contact Randy Baden, randallbaden@gmail.com.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE | NOVEMBER | 9 AM IN THE PARLOR

- November 1 & 8: Palestine, led by Debbie El-Bathi & Tracy Danielson
- November 15: Food & Faith: Till it and Keep It, led by Michelle Hockett-Cooper (part of the Stewardship Team's November theme of "Reverence")
- November 22: Christianity at the Crossroads, part 1, led by Ben Rode (video)
- November 29: Christianity at the Crossroads, led by Ben Rode (discussion)

DISSENTING HARMONY | NOVEMBER 6 & 7

Join Dissenting Harmony in “Warrior” at Connally High School Performing Arts Center on November 6 or 7, 7 pm. Dissenting Harmony is an Austin-based choral collective using music as a catalyst for social change and collective liberation. They believe singing together is the soul of community — a sacred act of resistance, healing, and transformation. This is art as alchemy. For tickets: <https://dissentingharmony.betterworld.org/>. For more info, contact Nikki Northcutt: nikncutt@gmail.com

PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

Kelby & Brittany Edwards, upon the death of their son, Bowen;
Caroline, Brady, Andrew, & William Nix & Merrily & Terry Porter,
in thanksgiving for the birth of Mary Sanders Nix on Oct. 7;
family & friends of Roberto Paolo Riggio, friend of Oliver Rajamani, upon his death;
Sarah Roberts & her family & friends, for healing and support;
Margaret VanAntwerp, friend of Kate Wanstrom, for healing & 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;
Lutheran Campus Ministry;
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.

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
Pastor Katie Rode
Anne Wiebe
Joe Cain, Treasurer
Gwen Flory, Financial Secretary

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Custodial Care
Teresa del Aguila & family
Bookkeeper
Melissa Kruckenberg

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