

## FELC Friendship Pads

Please fill out the Friendship Pad when asked during worship. If the church office does not currently have your contact information or it has changed, please indicate that in the appropriate column.

### Nursery Care

The nurseries at both sites are open for family use during all services. The Downtown Site Nursery is located across from the Library in the Gathering Area. The North Site Nursery is off the main hallway, across from the restrooms. Please ask an usher for assistance.

### Hearing Assistance

If you are in need of a personal receiver, ask a Downtown Site usher, or a North Site soundboard technician.

### Large-print Resources

If you are in need of a large print Bible or bulletin, ask an usher at the Downtown Site, or a greeter at the North Site.

### AED Units on Site

Automated external defibrillators are outside the Downtown Site Usher's Room and next to the North Site sound booth.

### Video Recording

The 8 a.m. Downtown Site worship service is video-recorded to share with our homebound members upon request.

### In Need of Prayer?

For additions to the prayer chain call Lorraine Moore, 749-0058, or email [felc@felc.com](mailto:felc@felc.com) or Pastor Mary at [mbauer@felc.com](mailto:mbauer@felc.com).

### More Information

For detailed information on these and more FELC events, opportunities and ministries, pick up a newsletter in the Gathering Area, visit our website at [www.felc.com](http://www.felc.com), or check the bulletin boards and kiosks in the Gathering Area.

## The Week of Dec. 11 At-A-Glance

### Sunday, Dec. 11

8:50 a.m.  
9:15 a.m.  
9:15/9:25 a.m.  
10:45 a.m.  
12:30 p.m.  
7 p.m.

### Monday

9 a.m.  
9:30 a.m.  
8:15 p.m.

### Tuesday

6:15 a.m.  
6:30 a.m.  
5:30 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.  
6:45 p.m.  
7 p.m.

### Wednesday

10 a.m.  
11:30 a.m.  
Noon  
4 p.m.  
5 p.m.  
5:30 p.m.  
6 p.m.  
6:15 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.  
7 p.m.  
7 p.m.  
7 p.m.

### Thursday

6 a.m.  
9 a.m.

### Friday

6:30 a.m.

### Saturday

9 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

### Sunday, Dec. 18

8:50 a.m.  
9:15 a.m.  
9:15 a.m.  
9:25 a.m.  
10:45 a.m.  
7 p.m.

### Honey Fundraiser

Cherub/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room  
Adult Learning Time, DS 221  
Children's Learning Time, DS/NS  
Join the Conversation (Grades 9-12), Google Hangouts  
Carol, Sing Along and Games, Fox Valley Lutheran Homes  
Pickleball, NS Activity Center

Quilters, DS Fellowship Hall  
Intern Enrichment Ministry Team, DS Lounge  
Pick Up Basketball League, NS Activity Center

*Bad Girls of the Bible* HS Study, Apple City Restaurant  
Men's Ministry, NS Library  
Executive Committee, DS Lounge  
VSA Choir Concert, DS Sanctuary  
Youth Connections Ministry Team, Off Site  
Finance Committee, DS 110  
Worship & Music Ministry Team, DS Lounge

All Congregation Advent Service, DS  
All Congregation Lunch, DS Fellowship Hall  
Sarah Circle, DS 114  
Martin Luther's Christmas Book Study, DS 114  
LIFT Meal (Schweitzer's Sloppy Joe's), DS Fellowship Hall  
Handbell Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room  
Confirmation Service Night All Grades, Off Site Locations  
Wednesday Worship, DS Sanctuary  
Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room  
Seraphim Choir Rehearsal, DS Fellowship Hall  
Martin Luther's Christmas Book Study, DS 114  
Miriam Circle, Member's Home  
reFUEL (Grades 10-12) Bell Ringing, Darboy Festival Foods

Early Risers, DS Lounge  
Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge

Men's Ministry, NS Library

Christmas Program Rehearsal, DS Sanctuary  
MSYG Avenue of Ice Festival, Downtown Appleton

### Sunday School Christmas Programs, Both Sites\*

Cherub/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room  
Adult Learning Time, DS 221  
Children's Learning Time Age 3-K & Grades 5 & 6, DS  
Children's Learning Time Age 3 & Grades 5 & 6, NS  
Join the Conversation (Grades 9-12), Google Hangouts  
Pickleball, NS Activity Center

DS=Downtown Site  
NS=North Site

\*See page 2 of the Youth Insert for Christmas program information.



## First English Lutheran Church

[www.felc.com](http://www.felc.com)

[felc@felc.com](mailto:felc@felc.com)

### Downtown Site

Sunday Worship: 8, 9:15, & 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Worship: 6:15 p.m.  
Office Hours: M-Th: 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.  
F: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### North Site

Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.  
Office Hours: M-Th: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Announcements

### Week of Dec. 11, 2016

# Love Jesus. Live your call.

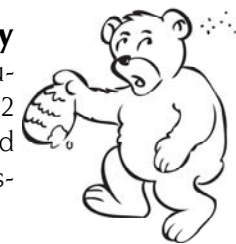
## Sunday at FELC

### Altar Flowers

The Downtown Site altar flowers are provided by the Gebert family in memory of Curt Gebert.

### Honey Fundraiser Today

Purchase a jar of Mike Bauer's delicious honey for \$12 in the Gathering Area and support the 2017 youth mission trip. Thank you!



### Operation Christmas

Tuesday, Dec. 13, is the last day to bring gifts for "Operation Christmas." Please place unwrapped gifts under the Christmas tree in the Gathering Area of either site. Gift cards should be clearly marked and placed in the offering plate today or brought to the church office by Tuesday.

### Thank you Anne

Please extend your thanks to Anne Messer for her service to FELC in the Downtown Site Office. Anne submitted her resignation this past week with her last day being Dec. 29. We are thankful for her sunny smile and cheerful welcome to those coming and going in the office. She and her husband Tom and their son Jeff will remain active members of FELC worshipping at the North Site.



Thank You!

### Reception for Pastor Bryan

Join the congregation in thanking Pastor Bryan for his ministry to First English by attending the special reception at the North Site next Sunday, Dec. 18, after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

### Alternative Gift Fair Today

(Downtown Site): Cashier's table

(North Site): Fair with cashier's table;

Dec. 18: cashier's table only

FELC is holding its 13<sup>th</sup> annual Alternative Gift Fair. We work with Alternative Gifts International (AGI) to offer "Gifts Inspiring Change" to help people in crisis around the world. AGI offers donors the option to designate charitable gifts through carefully selected agencies in the name of their relative, friends and associates.

Stop by the display in the Gathering Area (NS) to learn more about the projects (including Living Waters International-along with several other projects associated with FELC interests).

### 2017 Summer Intern Applications

Great news! If you aren't aware - FELC has an incredible paid summer internship opportunity for college-aged students. The application process is open through Dec. 31, 2016. Please pass this information along to candidates who may be interested. An application is available at [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms).

## Looking Ahead

### Wednesday Night LIFT Meal

Join us from 5-6:15 p.m. for food and fellowship Wednesday! Please sign up for next week's LIFT meal by Monday at noon at [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms). Wednesday's meal is **Sloppy Joes**. Meals are \$5 per person for anyone over 5, kids 4 and under are free. \$20 max per family.

### All Congregational Lunch

Sponsored by the 50+ Group  
Wednesday, Dec. 14, 11:30 a.m.  
Downtown Site Fellowship Hall

Join us for lunch following the Dec. 14 Advent worship service (worship is at 10 a.m.). All are welcome - bring a friend! Please sign up today in the Gathering Area for planning purposes. You may also sign up online at [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms).

There will also be a cookie exchange following lunch. You are not required to bring cookies but if you are so inclined, please bring two dozen to share. Hope to see you there!

### Longest Night Service - *Winter Solstice*

Wednesday, Dec. 21; FELC - Downtown Site Christmas is not only a time of joy. For all those who would like to experience relief from anxiety, expectations, or personal grief this Christmas season, First English Lutheran Church would like to offer to the Fox Valley and FELC community an evening of peace, candlelight, music and prayer.

6:15 p.m.: Sanctuary opens

6:45-7:15 p.m.: Contemplative service  
*Readings, piano, scripture, silence, lighting of candles, personal prayer, laying on of hands*

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary remains open

*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28*

### Tutors Needed

Looking for a way to live out your call on a Sunday morning? Consider being an *English as a Second Language* (ESL) tutor during the 9:15 a.m. service at the Downtown Site. Although not necessary, an ability to speak French is helpful. Please connect with Pastor Mary in the church office for more details.

### Christmas Worship Volunteers

Worship volunteers are needed for the eight worship services that take place on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please use one of the following ways to sign up:

- Visit the sign-up sheet located in the Gathering Area
- Call the Downtown Site Office (733-2303) or the North Site Office (882-7942)
- Email Hannah Sprenger ([hsprenger@felc.com](mailto:hsprenger@felc.com)) or Kathy Larson ([klarson@felc.com](mailto:klarson@felc.com))

Visit the full schedule either at [www.felc.com](http://www.felc.com) under Calendars, then Worship Volunteers; or Log into Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) and select the Full Schedule tab.

### VSA Choir Christmas Concert

Please join us this week Tuesday, Dec. 13 for the VSA Christmas concert which will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Downtown Site Sanctuary. The VSA Choir (which includes several members from FELC) is so thankful to FELC for the gift of complimentary rehearsal and concert space for the choir. Our choir is made up of many talented people with and without disabilities and our concerts are always an amazing experience. Please join us for this joy-filled event!

**St. Olaf Choir Christmas Concert**  
**Sunday, Dec. 18; 2 p.m.**  
**WPNE - 89.3 FM**

### Nominations for Elected Church Office

The FELC Nominating Committee is responsible for nominations for various elected church offices at the 2017 Annual Meeting. Recommendations are needed for candidates to the:

- 2017 Congregation Council
- 2017 Synod Assembly representatives
- 2018 Nominating Committee

Congregation members are being asked for suggested nominees for these. Please email your suggestions to [felc@felc.com](mailto:felc@felc.com) or contact one of the committee members: Keith Lenaburg, Mark Gebert, Matt Holtebeck, Sara Snyder, Dean Haas, or Tim Larsen.



### Valley Chili Lovers Take Notice

ESTHER is holding a chili cook-off to wake up your taste buds and raise funds for ESTHER's work; building community, sharing hope, and standing for justice. It will be held in conjunction with the ADI Winter Market at City Center Mall in Appleton on Saturday, Dec. 17.

**Team Competition:** They are currently enlisting up to ten teams (\$20 entry fee), which will be judged by attendees who for \$5 get to taste the team entries and vote for their favorite chili. The team with the most votes will win a \$100 gift certificate to Antojitos Mexicanos! Please contact Diane Putzer at [dkputzer@yahoo.com](mailto:dkputzer@yahoo.com) or 284-9228 if you are interested in participating on the FELC team!

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. - Noon

**Where:** City Center Mall, Appleton

More information at: [goo.gl/8CiiWp](http://goo.gl/8CiiWp)

### AA Corner

If you are or someone you know could use some confidential help with stopping drinking, please call Dale R. at (920)419-2794.

## Prayer Connection

Prayer connects us to each other in this community of faith and to Christ. To be included in the list of prayers, submit names to the church office or the First English staff. Names are removed after one month, but can always be extended by request. Please remember these First English members, friends and families in prayer in the coming week:

### Prayers of Healing, Wholeness & Peace

- Nathan Meissner
- Angel Manos
- Todd Hollenberger
- Mary Lou Garnsworthy
- Brooklyn Ann Converse
- Jacob Schwab
- Justin Schwab
- Laurie Niles
- Lynn Boenker
- Debra Boushley
- George Krempin
- David Heindel
- Doug Hansen
- Amy Ponomarev
- Moore Peregrine
- Harold Rohlfling
- Jacob Frerking
- Tom Roy
- Dana Gaffney
- Tom Burmeister
- Melissa Heins
- Je'Ann Johnson
- Ralph Huget

### Prayers of Comfort

Families of:

- Don Gillum
- Ellen Wenger

### Prayers of Thanksgiving

Baptism of:

- Jackson Lee Weix

### Prayers for Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- The Leiseth Family (Pastor Tessa Moon, Jon, Isaac and Sophia)
- Spencer Wentland
- Guatemala Mission Trip Team

### Prayers for Those in the Military

- BM3 Kyle Kramer, USCG
- SP4 Dylan Kratz
- LCPL Robert Kopesky II
- 2LT Lucas Hash
- PVT Samuel Sinclair

## FELC DS - Engage Page: December 11

**Matthew 11:2-11** *When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

Sunday, Dec. 11 Family Project: John was looking for signs that Jesus was the Messiah—or the one who was coming to save the people. Make some signs using symbols of the season sharing why we see Jesus as Messiah. Examples: "Jesus brings hope. Jesus brings peace. Jesus delivers from sin." etc.

Monday, Dec. 12 Last year, our Advent Conspiracy asked us to Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and to Love All. Our mission trip to Guatemala came about as we were challenged to get off the Christmas spending train of gifts without meaning, and to consider being more personal with our gift giving and more global in our loving. How does this concept fit into John the Baptist's cry? How do we prepare the way of the Lord?

Tuesday, Dec. 13 (from Lutheran Bible Ministries) If we are unlikely to literally do many of the deeds in Matthew 11:4-5 (healing the blind, lame, lepers, deaf, raising the dead, and preaching good news to the poor), how can these words still speak to us about what God wants us to do as disciples of Christ?

Wednesday, Dec. 14: Isaiah 7:10-16

The Lord invites Ahaz to ask for a sign –one as deep as Sheol or as high as heaven. Ahaz refuses saying that he won't put the Lord to the test. He simply would rather not be disappointed. Sometimes we also are afraid to ask for anything in prayer, not knowing if our faith can withstand not receiving what we want. It's important to remember that God calls us to bring everything to him in prayer. What helps you be faithful in prayer in spite of the possibility of disappointments?

Thurs., Dec. 15: Romans 1:1-7 (from Lutheran Bible Ministries)

According to Paul, it was the resurrection that certified Jesus' Sonship (verse 4). Jesus gave Paul the gifts of grace and apostleship to empower his mission to the Gentiles. We also receive these gifts. How are we called to use the gifts of grace and apostleship?

Friday, Dec. 16: Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

In the "Working Preacher" website, James Howell writes, "Psalm 80 envisions the northern kingdom of Israel in panic mode over the impending invasion of the Assyrian juggernaut. The fledgling kingdom doesn't have a prayer -- or all they have is a prayer. How does this prayer mirror what you might pray if you were in a country besieged by invaders? How is it different? What do you think of the concept of God being angry with the prayers of his people?"

Sat., Dec. 17 Matthew 1:18-25 (from Lutheran Bible Ministries)

If you compare this passage with Luke 1:26-28, you will find that Luke takes Mary's perspective; Matthew, Joseph's. In both, the child will be special to God, heir to David's throne, and conceived by the Holy Spirit (in some way). Luke stresses his Davidic, kingly future; Matthew accents his role as savior who forgives our sins. Why and how are both important?

For an online discussion of these and other questions concerning the texts, go to our Facebook FELC Engage Page: <https://www.facebook.com/FELCEngagePage>

## FELC NS - Engage Page: December 11

**Matthew 1:18-25** *Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.*

Sunday, Dec. 11      Family Project: God is with us during all the ups and downs of life—this is what Emmanuel means! Make a sign that says Emmanuel and hold it up as you take selfies of your family (singly and as a group). Go all over the house and in your car—anywhere that you might need a reminder that God is with you as you go through your day.

Monday, Dec. 12      Matthew also includes a number of dream incidents. Besides Joseph's dream in this passage, we have a dream warning the Wise Men not to return to Herod, warning Joseph to flee to Egypt, letting Joseph know they could return to Israel, and finally directing Joseph to Galilee. The next time we find a dream in Matthew, it is when Pilate's wife warns him to have nothing to do with the innocent Jesus because of a dream. How does this last dream relate to the others?

Tuesday, Dec. 13 (from Lutheran Bible Ministries) I have never heard God speak as clearly as he does to Joseph in this passage. My words from the Lord consist of impressions received in prayer and confirmed in conversation with other saints. Do you believe that God still speaks through dreams?

Wed., Dec. 14: Isaiah 35:1-10 (from Lutheran Bible Ministries)

What do you think of when you read of the “glory” and “majesty” of God in verse 2? What comfort do you find in reading, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” (v.4)? Think of the Israelites who had spent a generation in exile being faced with the opportunity to return to rebuild Jerusalem. If that were the setting, what would this verse mean?

Thursday, Dec. 15: James 5:7-10 (from Lutheran Bible Ministries)

Early rains came in autumn, latter rains in spring. Planting was in autumn, after the first rains had softened the ground. James’ letter is deeply concerned with proper use of speech, as 3:1-12 shows. Probably a lot of grumbling stems from our impatience with life and with people. Patience is a core element in the serenity and peace sought by Christians. How does patience affect our witness? How is impatience reflected in our speech and actions?

Friday, Dec. 16: Psalm 146:5-10

The Psalmist writes, “Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.” During the busy-ness of the days before Christmas, we are tempted to live as though our happiness depends on great meals, great gifts, and great concerts. As we enjoy these traditions of Christmas, how do we remember our hope is in the Lord? Make one concrete reminder that Christ is your hope and put it in a place where you will see it often.

Sat., Dec. 17: Matthew 11:2-11 (from Lutheran Bible Ministries)

“Offense” in verse 6 translates the Greek “skandalon,” meaning scandal or whatever makes faith difficult. What might be the scandal or offense given by blind receiving their sight, the lame walking, lepers cleansed, the deaf hearing, the dead being raised, and the poor having good news brought to them? We can be offended by good things happening to others when we are experiencing hard times. How do we keep from being offended by the blessings of others?

For an online discussion of these and other questions concerning the texts, go to our Facebook FELC Engage Page: <https://www.facebook.com/FELCEngagePage>



## Christmas Poinsettias



Help decorate the church by providing poinsettias  
in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Order online at *www.felc.com/forms* or  
return this order form with your payment of \$12 for each plant ordered  
to the offering plate or the church office.

Payment can be made by check or online at *www.felc.com* and  
each gift will be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletin.

The deadline to order is Monday, Dec. 19, 2016.

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

or

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

\$12 x \_\_\_\_\_      Amount due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to take your plants home after the Christmas Day services.