

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 Downtown Site Nursery (located across from the Library in the Gathering Area) is open for family use during all services and staffed during the 9:15 a.m. service. The North Site Nursery (off the main hallway, across from the restrooms) is staffed at both services. 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, email or call the church office (felc@felc.com; 733-2303) or email Pastor Mary (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, or check the bulletin boards and kiosks in the Gathering Area.

The Week of Dec. 31, 2017 At-A-Glance

Sunday, Dec. 31

8, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship, DS Sanctuary
Worship, NS Sanctuary

DS=Downtown Site
NS=North Site

Church Office Closed, DS & NS

Monday

6:30 a.m.

Men's Ministry, NS Library

1 p.m.

Judith Circle, DS 114

4:30 p.m.

H.E.R.E. Committee, DS Lounge

Tuesday

10:30 a.m.

Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 221

5 p.m.

FELC Mental Health Support Team Meeting, DS 221

5:30 p.m.

Handbell Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room

6:15 p.m.

Epiphany Wednesday Night Worship, DS Sanctuary
Confirmation Grade 9 Meeting for Students & Parents,
DS Fellowship Hall

7 p.m.

Confirmation Grades 7 & 8 General Sessions,
DS Assigned Small Group Rooms

7 p.m.

Kid's Life, DS 014

7 p.m.

reFUEL Grades 10-12, DS Youth Room

7 p.m.

Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room

7:15 p.m.

Seraphim Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room

8:05 p.m.

8:05 p.m.

8:05 p.m.

Thursday

6 a.m.

Early Risers Women's Bible Study, DS Lounge

9 a.m.

Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge

Friday

6:30 a.m.

Men's Ministry, NS Library

7:30 a.m.

Endowment Committee Meeting, DS 110

Sunday, Jan. 7

8:50 a.m.

Cherub/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room

9:15 a.m.

Confirmation Youth Group, NS Activity Center & Youth Room

9:15/9:25 a.m.

Children's Learning Time, DS/NS

9:15/9:30 a.m.

Adult Learning Time, DS Lounge/NS Library

Early Risers - Thursdays, 6 - 7 a.m., Downtown Site Lounge

"True belonging doesn't require us to *change* who we are. It requires us to *be* who we are." Social scientist Brené Brown, PhD, LMSW, has sparked a global conversation about the experiences that bring meaning to our lives - experiences of courage, vulnerability, love, belonging, shame, and empathy. In *Braving the Wilderness*, Brown redefines what it means to truly belong in an age of increased polarization. With her trademark mix of research, storytelling, and honesty, Brown will again change the cultural conversation while mapping a clear path to true belonging.

If you would like to participate in this study and need a book ordered for you, please contact Jean Monson at jeanmonson2324@gmail.com. Read Chapter 1 prior to the Jan. 18 start date.



First English Lutheran Church

www.felc.com 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.

Announcements

Week of Dec. 31, 2017

North Site

Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Office Hours: M-Th: 3-6:30 p.m.

Love Jesus. Live your call.

Sunday at FELC

Summer Intern Applications Are Due Today!

The FELC Summer Intern Program exists to provide faith formation and vocational discernment for college-aged men and women. This is accomplished through working together in an intentional Christian community. Each intern is assigned a ministry focus (Elementary, Middle or High School, Worship, Music, Outreach, Communications, and Art), but the interns work as a team to carry out these ministries.

This seasonal, full-time position will start at the end of May and run through mid-August. Applicants must have completed one year of college or be of equivalent age and life experience. Applications are available online at www.felc.com/employment and are due today, Dec. 31. Questions? Contact Heidi Schreiner (hschreiner@felc.com).

2018 Pledge Cards

Please remember to turn in your 2018 Pledge Cards as soon as possible. It can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the Church Office. It is important we receive these in time to prepare the 2018 budget. Please also consider using Automated Giving for fulfilling your pledge - it's easy to do! Forms are available in the office, Gathering Area or online at www.felc.com.

End of Year Giving

You still have time to donate a tax-deductible end of year gift to First English. Any gift received in today's offering or mailed today will be credited toward 2017 giving. Also, you can prepay your 2018 contribution today to receive a 2017 tax deduction.

Looking Ahead

Church Offices Closed

The Church Offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1. Happy New Year!

Board Games Guild Life Group

Board Games Guild is taking the month of January off as the first Monday of the month is on New Year's day. Take the time to celebrate the holiday and spend it with loved ones. Be ready for next month's night of fun! Bring a game and your friends and family. Watch future bulletins for date, time and place.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Meditations on Psalms

Join us at 9:15 a.m. in the Downtown Site Lounge for Sunday Adult Learning Time. In Epiphany (Jan. 7 - Feb. 11) we will begin studying selected Psalms through the sermons and writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Be challenged in your faith and learn about the life and teachings of this martyr of the faith. If you would like a book, please contact Pastor Mary (mbauer@felc.com).

Sweet Justice

Who doesn't love chocolate? Its rich, creamy taste brings a smile to faces young and old. But for the farmers who grow cocoa used in the making chocolate, the taste isn't always so sweet.



The Lutheran World Relief Chocolate Project challenges chocolate lovers to give cocoa farmers a fair deal. By choosing fair trade chocolate for gifts, or to enjoy personally, you ensure that farmers earn the income they need to feed their families, educate their children, receive medical care and improve their communities.

Visit the Gathering Area next Sunday, Jan. 7, to make your purchase and support this worthy cause.

New & Review Winter 2018

Has First English started to feel like your church home and you're ready to make it official? Consider attending our winter New & Review class to become a member of First English. These sessions are only offered twice a year, winter and fall.

Winter 2018 series:

Jan. 14, 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Downtown Site Room 220
FELC/the ELCA and You
Led by Pastor Jeff

Jan. 21, 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
North Site Lower Level
What it Means to be Lutheran
Led by Pastor Mary

Jan. 28, 11:45 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Pastor Jeff's Home
Love Jesus. Live your call.
Led by members of the congregation.

Feb. 4, New Member Sunday
Worship service of choice, both sites

A 7th Grade Small Group Needs YOU!

We have a great 7th grade small group whose leader is moving out of town. This is a fun and thoughtful group of students that needs a leader by Jan. 3. Please contact Kirsten Owens a.s.a.p. about this opportunity to be a blessing to our FELC kids!

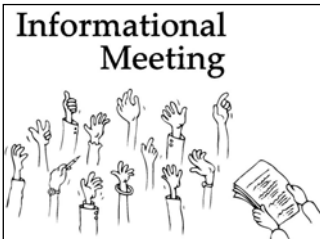
Get the Scoop On Confirmation!

If you have a student that will be entering 7th grade next fall it's time to think about Confirmation. On Jan. 17 from 7-8 p.m. in the Downtown Site Fellowship Hall we will be having a Welcome to Confirmation Meeting for New Students & Parents. We will be discussing Confirmation camp, pastor and family meetings, the calendar, the lock-in and more! If you intend to enroll a student in the fall please make every effort to attend this meeting. Contact Kirsten Owens at kowens@felc.com for more information.

Hmmm...I've Been Wondering...

Have you read articles about becoming a Confirmation small group leader but were concerned you didn't understand the role well enough to jump in?

If so, save the date for the Confirmation Small Group Leader Meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 7-8 p.m. in Downtown Site Room 114. We will talk about the joys, challenges, and expectations of small group leadership, review the Confirmation calendar, and discuss advance training sessions to equip leaders for this important role. Please note the date has been changed from its initial Jan. 17 date. Contact Kirsten Owens for more information at kowens@felc.com.



Noon Hour Philosophers

The Noon Hour Philosophers begin their 2018 season this week. The group meets for an hour at noon in the Downtown Site Fellowship Hall each Wednesday. If you have questions please contact Mary Poulson at mmaryjep@att.net or (920)734-8137.

Jan. 3: Innocence Sold - Human Sex Trafficking: Education for Junior and Senior High Students

Bonnie Goonen, Volunteer,
5 Stones Organization

Echoes, A Christian Thrift Store

This FELC run thrift shop is looking for volunteers to sort and price, run the front desk or general organization of store departments. If you are interested, please connect with Kathy at 882-8172.



New Worship Volunteer Schedule

Another worship volunteer schedule is in the making. Please submit your 'can't serve' dates for the next schedule which will run from Jan. 31 - Apr. 8, by Monday, Jan. 8. Here's to another year of joyous service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Apartments for Rent

There are 1 & 2 BR apartments available immediately at Linwood Place. Call Becky, John, or Brian to arrange a tour. Plan for the future also! Get on our waiting list if you're thinking of a move in the future. Becky (734-7225), John (419-5754), Brian (840-3578).

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
- David Heindel
- Doug Hansen
- George Krempin
- Amy Ponomarev
- Moore Peregrine
- Harold Rohlfing
- Jacob Frerking
- Tom Roy
- Je'Ann Johnson
- Paul Henrikson
- Kathy Skaar
- Bob Gauerke
- Juanita Gauerke
- Judy Egbert
- Todd Kauti
- Mike Boushley
- Bruce Erickson
- Ken Dusso
- Karen Schulz

Prayers of Comfort

Families of:

- Melissa Heins
- Jill Hilligoss
- Berniece Hoff
- Pastor Bill Lenz
- David Moard

Prayers for Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- Stephanie Olson

Prayers for Those in Seminary

- David Shudy

Prayers for Those in the Military

- BM3 Kyle Kramer, USCG
- LCPL Robert Kopesky II
- PFC Samuel Sinclair



High School Youth News

Grades 9-12 Dec. 31 2017

reFUEL

DS YOUTH ROOM
WEDNESDAYS 7-8PM
For Grades 10-12

1/3: Devotion and discussion on fresh starts
1/10: Special facilitator TBD
1/17: Object lesson on self-worth

Special thanks to all who attended the FELC Breakfast Club reunion last week!

New day. New year. New beginnings!



Thanks for the memories 2017!

Lord, use my **eyes** to see your *beautiful* creations. Open my **ears** to *listen patiently*, and my **heart** to be *compassionate*. Lead my **feet** in *your path*. Reveal my **courage** to try new things knowing *you're near* me when I'm afraid. Bless my **words** to give *comfort* and spread *hope*. Use me to **love others** like you do, and to *shine your light* to this new year.

SAVE THE DATES: Pre-Gathering Retreat for ELCA Youth Gathering Participants Feb. 9-10 and FELC Ski-Trip (and snowboarding and tubing) Feb. 17!



Follow **felc.youth** on Instagram and **FELC YOUTH** on Facebook!



Dec. 31, 2017



Information for FELC Youth and Families
Grades K-12



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Find us on Social Media Outlets

Instagram: felc.youth Facebook: FELC YOUTH

Connect with FELC Youth Staff

Kirsten Owens, Faith Formation Coordinator: kowens@felc.com
Heidi Schreiner, Youth & Summer Ministry Coordinator: hschreiner@felc.com

Love Jesus. Live your call.



Elementary Sunday School, Song, And Special News



Did You Know?



Christmas is actually 12 days, not just one. The song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" refers to the full season of Christmas. The season of Christmas extends from Christmas day (Dec. 25) when we celebrate the birth of Jesus to Epiphany (Jan. 6) when we commemorate the wise men following the star to find and worship the tiny savior. Even though it is six days after Dec. 25 we are still in the season of Christmas. Neat, huh?

Learn As a Family During Break

With just a few days remaining in Christmas break there's still time for some laidback learning with family.

Consider reading this important story and talk about it together.

Use the verse focus word as a compass for your conversation.



Dec. 31: Luke 2:22-40 Focus word: Expectations

Have you hoped and waited a long time to meet someone?

How do we meet Jesus in our lives?

Is it exciting, comforting, confusing?

Season color: White and/or gold (Holy season of Christmas)

Kid's Life Is Back Jan. 3

As the holidays come to a close there is still a lot of fun waiting at Kid's Life! On Jan. 3 kids in K-grade 6 will once again meet on Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m.

in Downtown Site Room 014 for faith-filled conversation, projects, and fun. All are welcome any time!



**Both Cherub & Angelus
Choirs Return On Jan. 7.
Get ready to sing!**



Confirmation and Middle School Scoop



Enjoy Your Last Few Days Off Then Get Ready for Jan. 3

On Jan. 3 there is:

Epiphany worship (6:15-7 p.m.)

7th grade large group. Have chap. 6 read

8th grade large group. Have chap. 7 read

9th grade student & parent meeting in

Fellowship Hall



First Family Assignment is due for 7th & 8th graders.

If you have a child starting Confirmation next year (7th grade in the fall) make sure to attend the Welcome to Confirmation Meeting for Students & Parents on Wednesday, Jan. 17 from 7-8 p.m. in the Downtown Site Fellowship Hall. We want to get you goin'!

A 7th Grade Small Group Needs YOU!



We have a great 7th grade small group whose leader has moved out of town. This is a fun and thoughtful group of students that needs a leader

(either individual or team)

by Jan. 3.

Please contact

Kirsten Owens a.s.a.p. about this opportunity to be a blessing!

CYG is Taking a Short Break!



Confirmation Youth Group will not be meeting on Dec. 31. We'll be back at it on Jan. 7. If you are interested in starting out the new year with us, come to the NS Activity Center at 9:15 a.m. Hope to see you there!

Have questions or want to volunteer?

Contact Kirsten Owens at kowens@felc.com or 733-2303.

FELC NS & DS - Engage Page: All Saints Day

Luke 2:22-40 *When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed -- and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.*

Sun, Dec. 31: *Family Project:* This passage teaches "Good things come to those who wait." All in the family will have just experienced waiting during the Christmas season—for presents, family, church, meals... Have each family member light a candle and talk about two things that were worth the wait.

Mon, Jan. 1: God can bless us through the ordinary disciplines of our faith. Simeon and Anna were in the temple, as was their custom; Mary and Joseph were fulfilling requirements of the law. Today determine to see faith practices not as a duty, but an opportunity to encounter God.

Tues, Jan. 2: Anna experienced loss at a young age, living with her husband only seven years. In her grief, she found solace in spending time in the temple. Praise God for His promise to comfort those who weep.

Wed, Jan. 3: Genesis 1:1-5 In my first days as a young bride, I would think carefully before taking on a new chore or responsibility, realizing that I might end up doing that task for *the rest of my life*. The first days can set the tone for the future. What was it that God did on the first day of creation? Certainly He did the work of creating light and dark, day and night. However, He also took the time to sit back and appreciate His creation. "God saw that the light was good." In the first days of this new year, determine to take time to appreciate your accomplishments. Our "to-do" list is never ending, but instead of jumping ahead to the next task, take time to sit back and say "It is good."

Thurs, Jan. 4: Psalm 29 James Limburg describes the Hebrew word for "glory" (*kabod*) that is used in this passage. "The fundamental sense of the word is "heaviness, abundance." A cloud, for example, may be described as *kabod* with rain, meaning that it is thick or heavy with rain..."* Our God evokes a heavy sense of permanence and stability, and possesses such an abundance of power and majesty that all in his temple join creation in praise. In recognizing God as the only permanent force in the universe, we ask for strength and peace. May our vision of the glory of God add weight and strength to our faith.

* Limburg, James, *Psalms*, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, 2000) p. 93.

Fri, Jan. 5: Mark 1:4-11 Have you heard the advice for teaching, "Tell people what you are going to say, say it, and then tell people what you said." We see a similar threefold teaching process in this passage. First John the Baptist describes what will happen, then it happens (Jesus comes and is baptized), and then God affirms what actually happened. Are you asking for direction in some area of your life? Don't be hesitant to request confirmation of God's will. God knows us and understands that we need to hear things more than once!

Sat, Jan. 6: Matthew 2:1-12 (Epiphany) During the season of Epiphany we focus in on all the ways that Jesus is revealed as God's Son. Epiphany simply continues what starts with the Christmas angels revealing to the shepherds that Jesus is Savior and Messiah. Watch the readings in the comings weeks to see the ways that the revelation grows to more and more people and the light of Christ spreads. What helps you best experience the light of Christ? Whether through inspirational music, Biblical teaching, or listening for God's voice in nature, take time this Epiphany to be filled with great joy as Christ is revealed to you!

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