

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, 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 Oct. 22, 2017 At-A-Glance

Sunday, Oct. 22

8:50 a.m.
9:15/9:25 a.m.
9:15 a.m.
9:15/9:25 a.m.

Monday

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

Tuesday

6:15 a.m.
6:30 a.m.
6:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

10:30 a.m.
Noon
5:30 p.m.

6:15 p.m.
6:30 p.m.

7 p.m.

7 p.m.

7 p.m.

8:05 p.m.

Thursday

6 a.m.
9 a.m.
1 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Friday

6:30 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 29

8:15 a.m. ONLY
8:50 a.m.
9:15/9:25 a.m.
10 a.m. ONLY

DS = Downtown Site NS = North Site

Troop 12 Christmas Wreath Sale; Reformation Book Sale, Both Sites

Cherub/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room
Adult Learning Time, DS Lounge/NS Library
Confirmation Youth Group, NS Activity Center & Youth Room
Children's Learning Time, DS/NS

Monday Morning Quilters, DS Fellowship Hall
Property Oversight Committee, DS Office Workroom
Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

High School Girl's Breakfast Club, *Schreiner's Diner*
Men's Ministry, Angel's Restaurant
Congregation Council, NS Library
Learning Ministry Team, DS Lounge

Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 221
Noon Hour Philosophers, DS Fellowship Hall
Handbell Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room
Wednesday Worship, DS Sanctuary
Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room
Confirmation General Session, DS Assigned Large Group Rooms
Kid's Life, DS 014
reFUEL Grades 10-12, DS Youth Room
Seraphim Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room

Early Risers Women's Study *Together by Grace*, DS Lounge
Adult Bible Study *Together by Grace*, DS Lounge
Daytime Women's Book Club, DS Lounge
Ukulele Combo Rehearsal, DS Choir Room

Men's Ministry, NS Library

Reformation Sunday Troop 12 Christmas Wreath Sale; Reformation Book Sale, Both Sites

Worship, NS Sanctuary
Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room
Children's Learning Time, DS/NS
Worship, DS Sanctuary



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.

Love Jesus. Live your call.

Sunday at FELC

Altar Flowers

The Downtown Site altar flowers are provided by Rich and Jan Erickson in honor of their 51st wedding anniversary today.

Reformation 500 Bookstore

Today Oct. 22

All Morning, Both Sites

Wednesday, Oct. 25

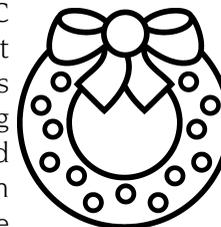
4:30-7:30 p.m., Downtown Site

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation is almost here! Discover a variety of resources on Martin Luther and the Reformation for readers of all ages. Thirty-five of the most recently published books about Martin Luther will be available to order at half price, and with NO shipping charge. What a great Christmas gift idea!

Stop by the tables in the Gathering Area on the dates, times and locations above. See you there!

Christmas Wreath Sales

Troop 12, one of the FELC sponsored Boy Scout troops, is selling Christmas wreaths in the Gathering Area at both sites today and Oct. 29 with delivery on Nov. 26. Payment will be collected upon order. Detailed information is located on the Gathering Area Kiosk.



Announcements
Week of Oct. 22, 2017

North Site

Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.
Office Hours: M-Th: 3-6:30 p.m.

Looking Ahead

Reformation Day Worship

Oct. 29 - Two Services Only

8:15 a.m. North Site &

10 a.m. Downtown Site

Join us as we observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation!

- ◆ Bishop Gerald Mansholt preaches at both services.
- ◆ Pastors Mary and Jeff are at both services.
- ◆ Instruments, streamers, and *A Mighty Fortress*.
- ◆ A pocket edition of *The Essential Lutheran Handbook* will be given as a gift to each household in attendance.
- ◆ Fresh cinnamon rolls and coffee will be served.
- ◆ Prints of artwork by Thomas Dietrich, commissioned by Aid Association for Lutherans for the observance of the 450th anniversary of the Reformation, will be on display.

(Note to parents: Sunday School starts at its usual time on Oct. 29.)

Early Risers

On Thursday, Oct. 26 the Thursday morning Early Risers Bible Study will begin reading *Queen of the Reformation*. Learn more about Katie von Bora Luther and her marriage to Martin Luther through this biographical novel. Early Risers meets on Thursdays at 6 a.m. in the Downtown Site Lounge. Books are available at Amazon.com.

The Daily Texts

Once again, we will be placing an order for the daily devotionals through Mt. Carmel Ministries called "The Daily Texts." If you are interested in receiving one of these devotionals, please contact Pastor Mary by email (mbauer@felc.com). The cost for one of these year-long devotionals is \$6.95, and the deadline to order is Nov. 6. Thank you.

A Reformation Day Gift for You

Just in time for our observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation comes this new publication from the ELCA publishing house: *The Essential Lutheran Handbook*. It is a guide for all things Lutheran. Some of the handbook's topics, both valuable and witty, include: how to avoid getting burned at the stake, five things you should know about the Lutheran Reformation, the most outrageous Luther quotes and how to tell the difference between Law and Gospel.

Each household will receive a special edition of this handbook at our two Reformation Day worship services on Oct. 29. Worship will be at 8:15 a.m. at the North Site and 10 a.m. at the Downtown Site.

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes News

Linwood Place: When you see the name "Linwood Place," don't be confused. That name has been the name of our apartment building since 2009. We are now officially using that name in our business for marketing purposes. The names **Linwood Place** and **Fox Valley Lutheran Homes** will be used much more interchangeably, so don't be confused. We are still talking about the same wonderful place to live at 425 N. Linwood Place!

Free Concert at Zion

Zion Lutheran Church, Appleton, will feature the Chicago Gargoyle Brass and Organ Ensemble on Friday, Oct. 27, at 7:30 p.m. This free event will feature music of the Reformation with music by composers Johann Sebastian Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, and others in a centuries-spanning program.

The hour-long program commemorates the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation in Germany in 1517. For more information you may call (920)739-3104.

Echoes - Assistant Store Manager

Echoes is seeking a person with a heart for this ministry. This 10-20 hour per week, part time role will support the manager in the daily operations of the store. While guiding store volunteers in their roles, a primary function of this role is to provide exceptional customer service. Must be able to multi-task and enjoy working with people. Please return completed application to bsmangeski@felc.com. Application forms can be found online at www.felc.com/forms, in the church office, or contact Kathy Hoffman at echoes@felc.com or 882-8172 during store hours.



Ukulele Combo Rehearsal

Join the First English Ukulele Combo! An extension of the previously offered Ukulele class, the Combo focuses on learning songs to play for Worship. The next rehearsal is Thursday, Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Downtown Site Choir Room. For those of you who would feel more comfortable with continued learning rather than performance, or for more information, please contact Rodney McComb at rmccomb@felc.com.

Help Stop Human Sex Trafficking

Educating the Community
Saturday, Nov. 11, 8 a.m. - Noon
All Saints Lutheran Church
1072 Honey Creek Road, Oshkosh

Learn the facts from eight active organizations on the front lines and what you can do to help. The event is free, but an admission ticket is needed to receive a prepared packet at the event. To register, go to www.eventbrite.com and search 11-11-17 Help stop Human Trafficking Oshkosh.

*No one can do everything,
But everyone can do something.*

Noon Hour Philosophers

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

Oct. 25: How Do Genes Work? What Can Go Wrong to Cause Genetic Disease?

Elizabeth DeStasio
Professor of Biology and Genetics
Lawrence University

That We May Be One

The East Central Synod of Wisconsin and the Diocese of Green Bay will be joining together to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation! Join us on Sunday, Oct. 29 at 3 p.m. for a prayer service, with Bishop Gerald Mansholt and Bishop David Ricken, preaching. Following worship, there will be an hour-long workshop entitled, "Ecumenical Marriages: A Mirror of Lutheran - Catholic Sharing."

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Green Bay (2771 Oakwood Drive)
Worship: 3 p.m.; Workshop: 4:15-5:15 p.m.



ESTHER 13th Annual Banquet

Sunday, Nov. 5, at 5 p.m.

Liberty Hall (800 Eisenhower Dr), Kimberly
Voices for Justice

Keynote speaker: Glenn Martin, founder and CEO of *JustLeadershipUSA*

Join us for fellowship, a great silent auction, joyous music, a delicious meal, well deserved awards, and an altogether wonderful celebration. Tickets are \$45 per person and available at www.esther-foxvalley.org/banquet. Mail checks payable to ESTHER to PO Box 784, Neenah, WI, 54957.

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 Rohlfing
- Jacob Frerking
- Tom Roy
- Melissa Heins
- Je'Ann Johnson
- Paul Henrikson
- Kathy Skaar
- Bob Gauerke
- Juanita Gauerke
- Andrew Peterson
- Paul Brinkman

Prayers of Comfort

Families of:

- Diane Brey
- Phyllis Brown

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Wedding of:

- Nichole Wikel and Michael Roberts

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

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.



High School Youth News

Grades 9-12

Oct. 22, 2017

reFUEL

WEDNESDAYS 7-8 p.m.

DS Youth Room

10-12 GRADE

10/25/17: Fruits of the Spirit Discussion

A branch can't make a fruit.

Why it's important to stay connected to Jesus.

11/1/17: *Special Event and Time* 6:30-8pm

Halloween Party Disney Movie Night

Costumes are welcomed

11/8/17: Forgiveness object lesson



"Humility may well be one of the most difficult of the fruit of the Spirit to be cultivated in us - and to maintain. That's because without humility, it's not likely that you will put your complete trust in God.

-Joyce Meyer

Sisterhood of the Traveling Breakfasts Club

For girls grades 9-12
Tuesdays at 6:15am

Oct. 24: *Schreiner's Diner*
2437 S. Oneida St., Appleton

Oct. 31: *Perkin's*
3030 E. College Ave., Appleton

Nov. 7: *Little Diner Xpress*
1939 N. Richmond St., Appleton



Reformation Day

Oct. 31, 1517

#NAILEDIT

#ThanksLuther

Oct. 22, 2017



Information for FELC Youth and Families
Grades K-12

For Lutherans the Reformation is a BIG DEAL...Like...500 years BIG!

In case you haven't heard, this year we commemorate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's reformation of the church. This means that on Sunday, Oct. 29 there will be only two worship services - one at 8:15 a.m. at the North Site to be followed by a regular Children's Learning Time (9:25-10:25 a.m.) and one at the Downtown Site at 10 a.m. after an abbreviated Children's Learning Time (class will begin at 9:15 a.m. and end at 9:55 a.m. with no Pastor Chat). Bishop Gerald Mansholt will lead both worship services, and cinnamon rolls will be served following worship.

We look forward to a super Sunday remembering the work of Luther!



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**

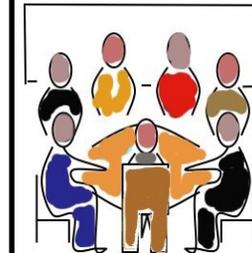


**Confirmation and
Middle School Scoop**



**Money Takes Up
the Least Space
In a Giving Envelope**

Did you pass on taking a box of giving envelopes for each child in your family? It seems the most efficient. Yet, for children the giving envelope is much larger than a way to turn in a bit of loose change. For children, it is one more activity for them to feel connected to their church community. By placing that special envelope in the basket they become active participants in giving of themselves in another way. Don't worry about the amount of money in the envelope. Only want to spend an extra dollar beyond your household giving? Split that dollar between your children's envelopes. Worried that your youngest may toddle off with valuable currency? Place just a couple of pennies in their envelope. The main thing is creating a chance for children to interact with their faith family in every way. Money is just a small bit of what goes into an envelope, the rest of the space is taken up by heart.



Small Group This Week

- ⇒ 7th grade students should have answered a chapter 3 Question to Ponder.
- ⇒ 8th grade students should have answered a chapter 4 Question to Ponder.
- ⇒ 9th grade students should have four devotion entries in their journal and be ready to discuss interpretations of the Bible.

Thanks Confirmation Christmas Helpers

A big thanks to those that responded to the Confirmation Christmas party Sign-Up Genius sent to families last week. Wondering how to help? Our greatest need is organizers as parties can't happen without them. If you didn't receive the Sign-Up Genius email let Kirsten know and she will send it to you right away.



**We Need Some
Christmas Helpers**

For our Christmas programs on Dec. 17 and the class time that follows we are looking for some helpers. We need a pianist at each site to help with program rehearsals. In addition, we need parent helpers the morning of the program and others to put together treats and drinks. Please contact Kirsten at kowens@felc.com to make Christmas merrier.

Our Choirs Sing

On Nov. 5 the Cherub Choir sings at the 9:15 a.m. worship.
On Nov. 12 the Angelus Choir sings at the 9:15 a.m. Worship.
Singers should go to their rehearsal rooms at the regular time of 8:50 a.m. to practice before we sing our hearts out in church!



Way to Go!



woo-hoooo!

Good job on

sermon notes,

you guys.

Keep 'em comin'!

Remember,
Confirmation meets
Oct. 25 but not Nov. 22.
Gobble, gobble!



What's CYG Up To This Week?



This week's topic for discussion is reading the Bible as the "Inspired Word of God." We'll explore the laws of the Old Testament by playing the game, "Is that really real?" Join us to learn more! Contact Hannah Sprenger at hsprenger@felc.com for any questions.

*Have questions or want to volunteer?
Contact Kirsten Owens at kowens@felc.com or 733-2303.*

*You will be enriched in every way
so that you can be generous on every occasion,
and through us your generosity will result
in thanksgiving to God.
2 Corinthians 9:11*

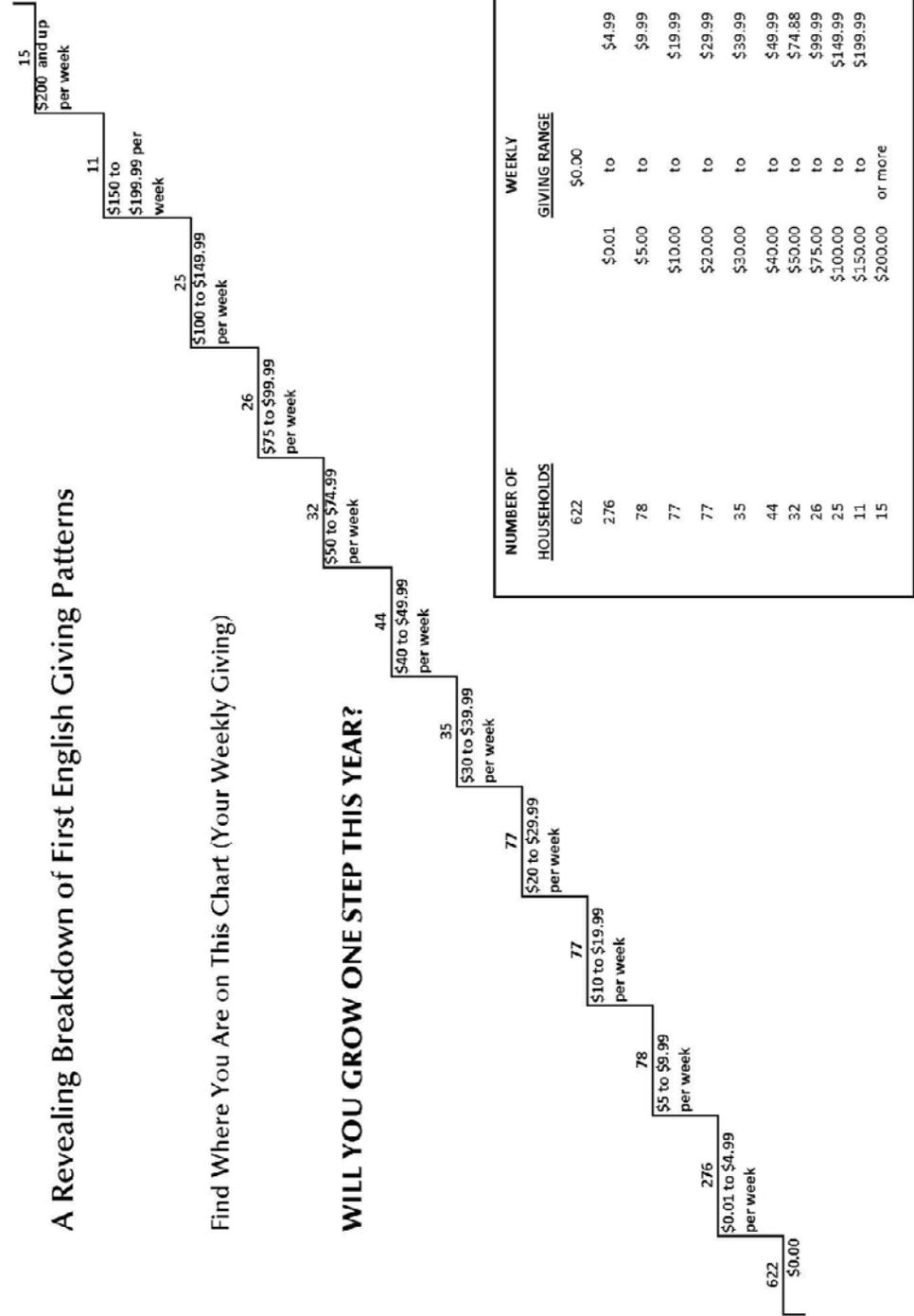
Stewardship Brunch Thank You

Thanks to all who attended the second annual Stewardship Brunch. This event was a way to express thanks and gratitude to our members who share so much of their time, talent and treasure in support of FELC ministries. The overflowing crowd enjoyed fun fellowship along with a great message and stories of faith. So many attended that we ran out of food! Thanks also go to those that helped make it happen...those who planned, cooked, set-up, served and helped in the clean-up. And thanks go to the quick thinkers at the North Site who anticipated the crowd and moved the gathering to the Activity Center. All in all, a great day for First English.

This week Stewardship continues with pledge cards being distributed in all worship services. Please prayerfully consider your gifts to FELC in the coming year. On the back of this insert is a step chart illustrating the giving patterns at First English. Every gift is very important to the congregation and this year the Stewardship Committee is asking everyone to "move up a step." If you contributed \$20 a week, possibly you can move up to \$25. Or if you were unable to give last year, consider making a contribution in 2018.

Complete and return the pledge card via mail, place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. A pledge can also be completed online at www.felc.com. If you have any questions, please connect with a member of the Stewardship Committee or a member of the Congregation Council. Your gifts make ministry and programming happen at FELC.

Thank you for your kind consideration of how you can make a difference for First English in 2018 and impact the future as we *Love Jesus and live our call.*



FELC DS Engage Page: October 22, 2017

Matthew 22:15-22 *Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.*

Sun., Oct 22: Family Project: One of the most famous memes from the Star Wars series is when Admiral Akbar yells, "It's a trap." (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNI-ID10BZw>) Watch it and try to come up with as many examples as you can (*in movies, TV shows, or books*) of traps being set—both for good and bad. The trap the Pharisees set for Jesus would cause him to get in trouble either with the Roman authorities (*if he says it is not lawful it is sedition*) or with the Jewish teachers of the law (*if he says it is lawful, he is helping the Roman occupiers*). Why would they want to get Jesus in trouble? Talk about times you may have felt trapped between two bad decisions.

Mon., Oct 23: Pastor Erick Thompson relates the uneasy relationship between our obligations to civil authorities and those to the spiritual realm. In the civil realm, we are called to good works for the betterment of society and for orderly governing. Our spiritual righteousness, however, is a free gift from God. Thompson calls on us to avoid assigning to ourselves spiritual righteousness because of an ethical stance taken in the civil realm. Conversely, we must avoid feeling so content about spiritual matters that we duck involvement in the running of society. Pray for wisdom in deciding how to be in the world but not of it. http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3458

Tues., Oct 24: The psalm for this past week was Psalm 96—a powerhouse of praise. It calls us to live a life of worship, exclaiming that even the heavens and seas and fields praise God and the trees themselves sing for joy. The reason that the psalmist gives for this eruption of praise: *"for he (the Lord) is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth."* (v. 13) Perhaps more than the selfish joy we find in knowing others will be punished, may we joyfully await the day when the entire world will know justice and equity.

Wed., Oct 25: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 This passage tells us clearly that holiness includes neighborliness. Growing up in small town America, we knew all of our neighbors. Mr. Larson, our band director, lived across the street from us, and directly across from the vacant lot that usually served as our baseball diamond or the field for Red Rover or Prisoner's Base. We were perpetually trying to get the older kids to play, as the games became so much more exciting when there was the possibility of a line drive smashing a window in Mr. Larson's house. More common however was the excitement of retrieving a ball that had made it into his yard. In subsequent discipline, parents would instill through hard work our responsibility for broken property, and the need to look at another's rights before our own. Today, ask God to reveal someone in need of neighborly love.

Thurs., Oct 26, Psalm 1 What does it mean to meditate on the word of the Lord? Rather than turning this verse into a to-do list, the psalms call us to be honest with God, accepting and embracing all that it means to be human and mortal. Professor Paul K. Cho says, *"To borrow words from Kierkegaard, to meditate on the psalms is to choose to will to be ourselves before God, to sing full throated songs of praise when that is appropriate and to give honest articulation to our despair when we are sad. To present our very ordinary selves, our daily selves, to God, that is the advice of the Psalm."* http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2962

Fri., Oct 27: I Thessalonians 2:1-8 When my sons were little, we'd often go to Hardees where they could play in the balls between bites of their meal. However, for a while my oldest was uncertain about playing with anyone he didn't know. He would come and sit next to me to avoid being with strangers. One time his brother came over, trying to get him to change his mind. "Come and play," he said, "These kids are not tricky." May we be like very young children, calling others into community with purity of motives. May our hearts open in love to share the message of grace in Christ, not using flattery or trickery to impress other. May our gentleness show true compassion that avoids suspicious thoughts and impure motives.

Sat., Oct 28: Matthew 22:34-46 Tomorrow we remember the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We worked hard to make the services meaningful. However, this text, along with the history of the day, reminds us that how we love God and care for our neighbors is more important than any style of worship. Each one of us is a minister of God's grace. Let's start a new Reformation of love and caring as we bring God's light and forgiveness to those who need it most. We all connect daily to people that no one pastor, teacher, or bishop will ever be able to reach. May we be reformed into a church on fire to share God's redeeming grace. May we walk humbly with our Lord—a force for mercy and justice as we start the next 500 years.

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

FELC NS Engage Page: October 22, 2017

Matthew 21:33-46 *"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.*

Sun., Oct. 22: Family Project: Jesus points to the Old Testament prophecy, *"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."* Learn about a cornerstone by playing Jenga or building a tower out of blocks. Show that the building falls over when the cornerstone is removed. Come up with examples of the things that are less important—things that can be removed and leave the building intact. Praise God together that Jesus is a strong foundation for life!

Mon., Oct 23: Audrey Assad sings, *"If everything is yours, I'm letting it go. It was never mine at all."* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNfR3mQHxkk>) We are constantly tempted to claim ownership of the ministry that belongs to God, particularly when things are going well. By doing so, we make an idol of our own abilities, virtually kicking God out of his own vineyard. May the stumbling block of the cross continue to expose and then smash all pride and pretensions.

Tues., Oct 24: Hidden among the many teaching points in this parable are the servants who are sent and then rejected. Even when we follow God, doing as we are called, we may not be welcome or find acceptance. We do not go because we are assured success, but because our Lord calls us to a life of witness. May Christ help us deal with rejection and press on to help others know the love of God.

Wed., Oct 25: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 This passage tells us clearly that holiness includes neighborliness. Growing up in small town America, we knew all of our neighbors. Mr. Larson, our band director, lived across the street from us, and directly across from the vacant lot that usually served as our baseball diamond or the field for Red Rover or Prisoner's Base. We were perpetually trying to get the older kids to play, as the games became so much more exciting when there was the possibility of a line drive smashing a window in Mr. Larson's house. More common however was the excitement of retrieving a ball that had made it into his yard. In subsequent discipline, parents would instill through hard work our responsibility for broken property, and the need to look at another's rights before our own. Today, ask God to reveal someone in need of neighborly love.

Thurs., Oct 26, Psalm 1 What does it mean to meditate on the word of the Lord? Rather than turning this verse into a to-do list, the psalms call us to be honest with God, accepting and embracing all that it means to be human and mortal. Professor Paul K. Cho says, *"To borrow words from Kierkegaard, to meditate on the psalms is to choose to will to be ourselves before God, to sing full throated songs of praise when that is appropriate and to give honest articulation to our despair when we are sad. To present our very ordinary selves, our daily selves, to God, that is the advice of the Psalm."* http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2962

Fri., Oct 27: I Thessalonians 2:1-8 When my sons were little, we'd often go to Hardees where they could play in the balls between bites of their meal. However, for a while my oldest was uncertain about playing with anyone he didn't know. He would come and sit next to me to avoid being with strangers. One time his brother came over, trying to get him to change his mind. "Come and play," he said, "These kids are not tricky." May we be like very young children, calling others into community with purity of motives. May our hearts open in love to share the message of grace in Christ, not using flattery or trickery to impress other. May our gentleness show true compassion that avoids suspicious thoughts and impure motives.

Sat., Oct 28: Matthew 22:34-46 Tomorrow we remember the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We worked hard to make the services meaningful. However, this text, along with the history of the day, reminds us that how we love God and care for our neighbors is more important than any style of worship. Each one of us is a minister of God's grace. Let's start a new Reformation of love and caring as we bring God's light and forgiveness to those who need it most. We all connect daily to people that no one pastor, teacher, or bishop will ever be able to reach. May we be reformed into a church on fire to share God's redeeming grace. May we walk humbly with our Lord—a force for mercy and justice as we start the next 500 years.

For an online discussion of these and other questions concerning the texts, go to our Facebook FELC Engage Page: [https://www.facebook.com/FELC Engage Page-North Site](https://www.facebook.com/FELC-Engage-Page-North-Site).