

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 Apr. 1, 2018 At-A-Glance

Sunday, Apr. 1

8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.
8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Monday

9 a.m.
6:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
8:15 p.m.

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

10:15 a.m.
Noon
5:30 p.m.

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

6:30 p.m.

7 p.m.

Thursday

6 a.m.
9 a.m.

7:30 p.m.

Friday

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

Sunday, Apr. 8

8:50 a.m.
9:15 a.m.
9:15/9:25 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
Noon

DS = Downtown Site NS = North Site

Easter Sunday

Easter Worship, DS Sanctuary
Easter Worship, NS Sanctuary

Monday Morning Quilters, DS Fellowship Hall
GriefShare, DS 221

Board Games Guild, NS Library

Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

9th Grade Faith Interviews, By Appointment

Men's Ministry, NS Library
Judith Circle, DS 114

9th Grade Faith Interviews, By Appointment

Lenten Study with Pastor Mary, DS 110
Noon Hour Philosophers, DS Fellowship Hall
Handbell Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room
Wednesday Worship, DS Sanctuary

Divorce Care Group, DS 114

Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room

reFUEL Grades 10-12, DS Youth Room

Early Risers Women's Bible Study, DS Lounge

Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge

ATC Open Basketball, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library

Affirmation of Baptism Retreat for 9th Grade, NS

Cherub/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room

Adult Learning Time, DS Lounge

Children's Learning Time, DS/NS

Women's Study Group, NS Library

Marriage Mentors Get Together, NS Library

Divorce Care Group Starting Apr. 4

Are you divorced or going through a divorce? We will be starting a weekly Divorce Care Group on Wednesday Apr. 4 from 6:15-8 p.m. and journey together on a seven-week program through May 23. Each week we will watch a short video on a different topic (for example: Finances, Kids, Anger, Forgiveness). Our gathering will be a time to talk and share, cry and laugh, ponder and pray together. Folks who were divorced a long time ago, those who have remarried, or those who are currently going through a divorce are all welcome to join this discussion.



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 Apr. 1, 2018

North Site

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

Office Hours: W: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Love Jesus. Live your call.

Sunday at FELC

Day on the Mission Field

Apr. 3 is sponsored in honor of Stephanie Olson's birthday.

Looking Ahead

Board Games Guild Meets Tomorrow

This life group meets the first Monday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. in the North Site Library. Bring your favorite board game, your family and friends, and meet us for a night of fun fellowship tomorrow night. Hope to see you there!



New Worship Volunteer Schedule Released

A new worship volunteer schedule has been released for Apr. 11 - July 1. If you see any scheduling errors, call the church office to speak with Kathy Larson or Hannah Sprenger. With the new worship times at the Downtown Site there may be a learning curve. Thank you!

Scrip Sale Next Sunday

The youth heading to the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer will be selling Scrip cards next Sunday. You can also download an order form at www.felc.com/forms. Orders with payment (cash or check) are due to the Church Office by noon on Monday, Apr. 9. Orders will be available for pick up on Sunday Apr. 16. Thank you for your continued support!

LWR Coffee Project

The Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project has been in existence since 1997. First English has been part of the project for over 20 years, and has been a very strong supporter. Through fair trade, farmer cooperatives pool their small harvests into enough coffee that they can sell directly to a fair trade buyer. Farmers receive a guaranteed fair price for their crop, and in turn are able to provide for their families' needs and contribute to the overall well-being of their communities by investing in schools, health care services and environmentally friendly farming techniques.



The number of fair trade products available to us continues to grow. We now have baking cocoa. Come check out our table display on Sunday, Apr. 8. We depend on your continued support of the Coffee Project.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are facing a crisis or going through tough times. The help you'll receive is free and confidential. To learn how you, a friend, neighbor, co-worker or relative can receive care, please speak to a pastor.

Thank You Hannah!

With great appreciation for her blessings to us, we announce that Hannah Sprenger is resigning her position at First English. She is moving to Colorado, and her last day with us is Sunday, Apr. 22. We will miss her calm demeanor, welcoming attitude, and can-do spirit which has had a big impact on the staff, congregation, and North Site.

There will be a special time for all to thank Hannah personally and wish her well on Sunday, Apr. 22, which is also Volunteer Appreciation Sunday. Until that time, please take an opportunity to thank Hannah for her ministry with us!

North Site Discipleship Coordinator Role

FELC is seeking to fill the part-time role of North Site Discipleship Coordinator. This person will work closely with Pastor Mary and the Invitation and Hospitality Ministry Team. A main responsibility of this staff role is to foster the discovery of FELC members' personal calls and empower them to live out those calls in their personal lives, in our congregation and our community. Interested or have questions? View the job description at www.felc.com/forms or speak to Pastor Mary. Submit your cover letter and resume to bsmongeski@felc.com or mail to the church office at 326 E. North St., Appleton, WI, 54911.

50+ Program

On Thursday, Apr. 12, Dick Campbell will present the program entitled: *The Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage*. The program will begin at 1 p.m. in the Downtown Site Fellowship Hall. One of the members of the planning committee has heard this program and said it was wonderful. Refreshments will be served. Hope to see many of you there.

Early Risers New Study Begins April 5

On Thursday, Apr. 5 at 6 a.m., the Early Risers Bible Study will begin their next study. *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* by Brene Brown will explore how we as women experience uncertainty, risks, being vulnerable and how to dare greatly.

Brown explains how vulnerability is both the core of difficult emotions like fear, grief, and disappointment, and the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, empathy, innovation, and creativity. She writes: "When we shut ourselves off from vulnerability, we distance ourselves from the experiences that bring purpose and meaning to our lives."

If you are in need of a book, please email Jean Monson (jeanmonson2324@gmail.com). Early Risers meets each Thursday at 6-7 a.m. in the Downtown Site Lounge with plenty of coffee and wonderful discussion and conversation taking place.

New Downtown Site Summer Worship Times

This summer First English is trying something new: two worship services on Sunday morning at the Downtown Site instead of three. The times will be 8:30 and 10 a.m. beginning May 27 and continuing through Sept. 2. With Pastor Mary on Sabbatical, this is a perfect opportunity to see if one fewer Sunday service in the summer is a good fit. Regular worship times will resume after Labor Day.



Noon Hour Philosophers

The Noon Hour Philosophers meet 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.

Apr. 4: Marcia Bjornerud - Beneath Our Feet: Bedrock and Groundwater in Eastern Wisconsin

Professor of Geology,
Shober Professor of Environmental Studies, Lawrence University

GriefShare

GriefShare is a nation-wide ministry that helps people cope with the death of a loved one. This 13-week video curriculum is followed by a discussion each week. The spring session of GriefShare runs through the months of March and April. You may join at any point in the curriculum. Sessions are on Monday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Downtown Site Lounge.

Attention New Mothers!

Did you know that First English has a Cradle Care Ministry? Sharon Morgan, a long time member of First English and retired after 35 years in obstetrics, offers visits, advice or prayer to families of newborn babies in the congregation. If you'd like a call or a visit or know someone that would benefit meeting Sharon please contact Hannah Sprenger at hsprenger@felc.com.

Prayer Shawls

Do you know someone who would benefit from being wrapped in prayer? Prayer shawls are available in the Gathering Area. Take a shawl and a prayer card and give the gift of presence.

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

- Mary Lou Garnsworthy
- Nathan Meissner
- Brooklyn Ann Converse
- Angel Manos
- Todd Hollenberger
- Jacob Schwab
- Justin Schwab
- Laurie Niles
- Lynn Boenker
- George Krempin
- Debra Boushley
- David Heindel
- Doug Hansen
- Amy Ponomarev
- Moore Peregrine
- Tom Roy
- Je'Ann Johnson
- Paul Henrikson
- Juanita Gauerke
- Robb Schaefer
- Kim Norland
- Taylor Vivian Thompson
- Carol Peterson
- Kathy Putzer
- Beverly Hoff

Prayers of Comfort

Families of:

- Bill Nussbaum
- Joe Walsh

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

This Week's Community Care Focus

- Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha
(920)729-5600; www.bestfriendsnm.org



High School Youth News

Grades 9-12

Apr. 1, 2018

*He is not here;
he has
Risen!*

-Luke 24:6

“The cross is the lightning rod of grace that short-circuits God’s wrath to Christ so that only the light of His love remains for believers.”

- A.W. Tozer



reFUEL

DS Youth Room
WEDNESDAYS 7-8 P.M.

- 4/4: Easter Celebration
- 4/11: The Pace of Grace Video and Discussion
- 4/18: *Special* reFUEL night at NS, Weather permitting meet at the bonfire
ALL 9th graders welcome!



ELCA Youth Gathering Updates

April Calendar

- Apr. 8: Scrip Sale
- Apr. 15: Scrip Pick Up
- Apr. 18: Bonfire at NS at 7pm (weather permitting)

RISE Youth Conference at Pathways Church in Appleton

This is a gathering for grades 7-12+, for the purpose of experiencing the gospel through Christ-centered music, teaching, arts, and community.

Apr. 13: 5-11pm

Apr. 14: 9am-2:30pm and 5:30-7:30pm

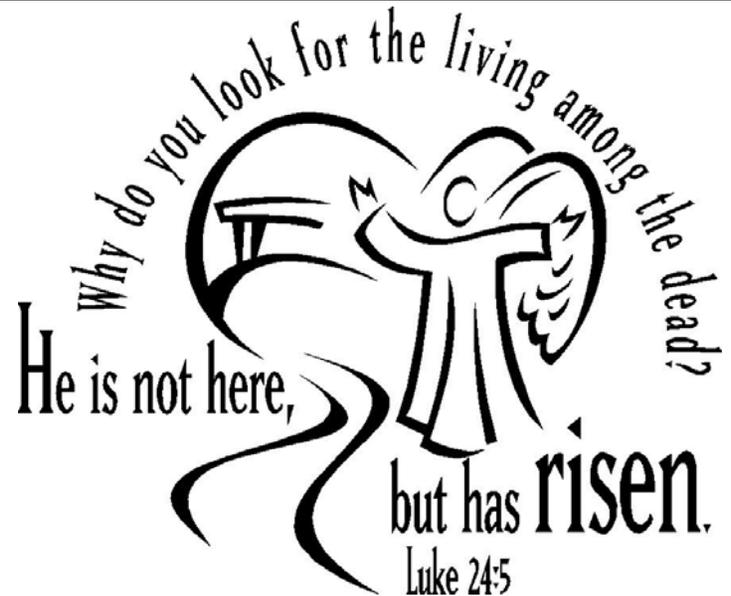
Registration Cost: \$30

More info at: www.riseyouthconference.com

Apr. 1, 2018



Information for FELC Youth and Families
Grades K-12



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



Alleluia!

*Today's the Day! Unzip those lips and shout
ALLELUIA!!!*

*Christ the Lord is risen today
ALLELUIA!*

*Let's celebrate Jesus'
triumph over death and
the great gift of
our Savior!
ALLELUIA!
ALLELUIA!
ALLELUIA!*



Vacation Bible School
Needs Your Gifts



We're getting a group of
creative planners together
for this year's
Vacation Bible School.
Go to www.felc.com/forms to sign up.
We need your gifts!

Angelus and Cherub Choirs
sing TODAY
at 9:30 a.m. worship



Angelus Choir
sings
on Apr. 15 at
8 a.m. worship



Confirmation and
Middle School Scoop



We Have Learned and
Had Fun In The Classroom
But Don't Forget To
Connect This Summer!



Thanks for a great Confirmation year!

We learned a lot about the legacy of Martin Luther, explored the small catechism, went in depth in the life of Jesus, and discussed the world and how our faith applies to the way we live our lives. There are no more Wednesday evening classes until September but that doesn't mean our time spent together as a community is over. Our shared experiences as a faith family are never ceasing.

Here are some ways to stay connected even
when we aren't in the classroom:

- * Go to Confirmation camp or Crossways with your church friends
- * Attend worship regularly
- * Make a splash at the Confirmation Pool Party
- * Help with a church event as an individual or with your family (like the church picnic)
- * Keep up with reading your devotions and text your favorite parts to friends
- * Participate in all of the super summer intern activities like reFUEL on Wednesday nights, going to Noah's Ark, or helping with the music
- * Choose a community group that excites you and volunteer with a Confirmation friend
- * Offer to help with a summer program like Day Camp, Kid's Club, or VBS!

God's still with us in the summer, and it's great when we can enjoy spending time with each other!

9th Grade Dates for Affirmation of Baptism:

Apr. 3 & 4: Faith Interviews > Apr. 6: Retreat 6-9 p.m. at North Site >
Apr. 11: Meal, Worship, Rehearsal, & Photos, 5:15-8:30 p.m. at North Site >
Apr. 15: Affirmation of Baptism Sunday, 10:30 a.m. at both sites

Have questions or want to volunteer?

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

***The sanctuaries are
decorated with
Easter flowers given by:***



Kathy Nigl in memory of Floyd Jahnke.

Four plants are provided by Roberta Roloff in memory of Robert J. Roloff, Miroslav Pansky, Rev. & Mrs. Arthur Krempin, and Thelma Krempin Vogt.

John & Bonnie Clasen in memory of Phil & Verona Johnson and Sherwood & Lois Clasen.

Two plants are provided by Vern & Sue Kraft in honor of Ben, Rachel, Aaron, Lauren, Gabby, Evelyn, Grant and Maren, and in memory of loved ones.

Two plants are provided by Anne Peregrine in memory of Harold Rohlfig.

Marijean Flom in memory of her husband, Richard Flom.

Barb Bieber in memory of her cousin, Judith Marie Bjerken Sullivan.

Jerry & Liz Lokensgard in honor of their children and grandchildren.

Becky Kallio in memory of Robert Kallio.

Russ, Sara, Emma, Marcus, Laura, Mike, Ava Mae, Heidi and Bryce in honor of Rich & Jan Erickson.

Two plants are provided by Don & Jean Monson in honor of their grandchildren, Natalie, Hailey & Lillian Tlachac, and Luke, Connor & Ben Skarda, and in memory of Don's father, Ken

Two plants are provided by Linda Baumbach in memory of Karin Steel and Marshall & Delores Steel.

Doug & Kathy Freeman in memory of Ed & Ruby Olson and Jim & Lois Freeman.

Two plants are provided by Kevin Brinkman in memory of Dolores Kosloski and John Brinkman.

Lois Hill in memory of Rev. & Mrs. Edward Gade.

Pete & Mary Vandenberg in honor of their sons' families and Mary's mother, Jane Moe.

Two plants are provided by Madi & Grace Howard in honor of grandparents, Warren & Bonnie Howard and Linda Peterson, and in memory of grandpa Gene Peterson.

The Detjen family in memory of John David Taylor.

Barry, Lisa, Evie & Kari Hoff in memory of their good friend, Roger Bloyd.

Richard & Nadine Gade in memory of Alois & Yvette Collins and Arthur Gade.

Jon & Becky Stellmacher in memory of Leroy & Helen Stellmacher.

Jeff Diehl in honor of Traci, Ethan, Corey & Carol Diehl, and Holly & Rick Nelson family.

The Tengesdals in memory of Peter Tengesdal, Danny Tengesdal, and Don Muenchausen.

Orv Kuske in memory of George & Sylvia Kuske and family.

Arlene Lee and Carla Jones in memory of Roger Lee.

Mary Poulson in memory of John Poulson and Karl & Irene Heinecke.

Mr. & Mrs. James E. Moard in memory of their parents.

In memory of Roman & Gladys Birkholz from their family.

The Ziegler family in memory of Donna Ziegler.

Two plants are provided by Rudi & Carmen Pakendorf in memory of their parents, Rev. & Mrs. Pakendorf and Rev. & Mrs. Tweet.

Steve & Sharon Eder in memory of Raymond & Romona Miller and Robert & Ruth Eder.

Two plants are provided by Bob & Beth Eick in memory of loved ones.

Nancy Allen in memory of her sister, Virginia Beeskau.

Barbara Schmidt in memory of Lance Schmidt.

Marc, Pam & Jill Patri and Mike, Cindy, & Eric Miller and Bailey Ernst in honor of Ken Anderson and in memory of Nina Anderson.

Sharon Evensen and family in memory of Robert Evensen.

Three plants are provided by Betty L. Smith in memory of her husband, Robert Smith, her son, Michael Borhardt, and in honor of George & Barb Mattheis.

Maren Pekarske in memory of her grandparents, Elmer & Sophie Torrison and Emil & Cindy Miller.

Kevin & Lori Hartz in honor of their kids, Stefan, Olivia & Sonja.

Tom & Karen Swoboda in memory of Willis & Mildred Thorson and Ed & Evelyn Swoboda.

Two plants are provided by the Shellabarger family in memory of Joni's mom, Jolene Norviel, and in honor of Finley & Drew's baptisms.

Two plants are provided by Mark Gebert & Sheryl Stidham-Gebert in honor of their children, Katrina, Sofia & Nathan, and in memory of their grandparents.

Sherrill Moard in memory of LeRoy & Arlene Pretz.

Two plants are provided by Jack Achterberg in memory of Nancy Achterberg.

Bill & Beth Padget in memory of their parents.

Jim & Kay Bartz in honor of their family.

Two plants are provided by Mark & Deanna Sanders in memory of Hazel Brunner and Ray & Catherine Vosters.

Three plants are provided by Lou Chicquette in honor of the FELC Stephen Ministers, Katie, Matt, Christian & Lucy, and in memory of Kay Chicquette.

Sharon Stoike in memory of Don, her parents, and her brother.

Gary & Kathy Larson in memory of Tom & Pat Auger and John & Leona Larson.

Carol Diehl in memory of Russel Diehl.

Shirley Strong in memory of Art Strong.

Jon & Joy Hagen in memory of Hack & Joyce Hagen.

Sarah Purdy in memory of Don Purdy and Ruth Purdy.



FELC DS Engage Page: Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

John 20:1-18 *Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "....go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"....*

Sun, Apr. 1: Family Project: Happy Easter! Make it an Hallelujah day! We have not used Hallelujah in worship during the entire season of Lent. Now is the time to take it out and use it. See who can use it the most. Is it a nice day? Hallelujah! Did you have an amazing Easter meal? Hallelujah! Each time you say it remember that Christ is risen.

Mon, Apr. 2: Heartbroken and confused, Mary speaks to the gardener through the lens of grief, unable to recognize her Lord. But when he speaks her name, she recognizes his voice immediately. May we become so accustomed to the voice of our Lord that we can hear him call our names even when our hearts are overcome with cares and sorrow.

Tues, Apr. 3: Mary tells the disciples about the empty tomb and they set off. John outruns his friend, but stops and kneels at the entrance, so Peter is the first to enter the tomb. They see the graveclothes, and begin the process of interpretation. As you celebrate Easter, commit to reexamining the meaning of your life in light of Jesus' resurrection.

Wed., Apr. 4, Acts 4:32-35 In our world of capitalism, the utopian society described in Acts 4 might seem more like a nightmare. If everything was held in common, how could you be sure that all members were working hard? What sort of process did they have in place to determine if someone was truly in need? Although questions abound, we cannot lightly dismiss the knowledge that the early church was a place of good news for the poor. It is not to be assumed that everyone contributed an equal amount, but that the great grace that was upon them all allowed them to give gladly, confident that they would have enough. Living in God's grace allows us to become a community of one heart and mind.

Thurs, Apr. 5, Psalm 133 Professor Nancy deClaissé-Walford writes, "The ...words of verse 1 (*"how good and how pleasant"*) recall the...blessing uttered by a traveler or visitor upon entering the home of another in ancient Israel. The word translated *"good"* is *tob*, a word that recalls God's assessment of creation in Genesis 1. In Genesis 1 ... the creation story tells us that *"God saw that it was good."* In the Genesis 2 creation story, however, God declares, *"It is not good (lo' tob) for the human to be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner"* (2:18). The word *"good"* in Psalm 133:1 reminds the reader/hearer of God's provision of community and relatedness for humanity."

http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2381

Fri, Apr. 6, 1 John 1:1-2:2 In the days following the resurrection, the followers of Jesus would have been trying to convince others that this Jesus who they knew, laughed with, ate meals with and listened to was actually the Son of God. However by the time that 1 John is written, there were people who accepted that Jesus was the Son of God, but no longer believed that he had been human. John emphasizes Jesus' humanity and consequently the importance of human bodily life. Rather than pursuing only spiritual transcendence, we are called to live life to the fullest, honoring our task of stewarding this world and sharing the gift of community.

Sat, Apr. 7, John 20:19-31 As Sunday morning church goes, we tend to be disparaging of "doubting Thomas". But most of us long for the assurance of seeing and touching—an advantage that the other disciples had already received. Instead, we are left to deal with uncertainty. We are among those whom Jesus himself has called blessed. *"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."* (v. 29) What is the difference between a life of faith and one of certainty? Can the "not knowing" be a blessing that compels us to rely on the Holy Spirit.

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

FELC NS Engage Page: Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

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Tues, Apr. 3: Mary tells the disciples about the empty tomb and they set off. John outruns his friend, but stops and kneels at the entrance, so Peter is the first to enter the tomb. They see the graveclothes, and begin the process of interpretation. As you celebrate Easter, commit to reexamining the meaning of your life in light of Jesus' resurrection.

Wed., Apr. 4, Acts 3:12-19 The crowd is filled with wonder and amazement as they follow Peter and John who have just healed a man lame from birth. Our passage begins as Peter outlines the life and death of Jesus, who alone deserves honor for the healing they have witnessed. We may be tempted to take ownership of the healing that God alone brings, be it emotional or physical. We can claim that our own training or our own abilities bring changes. While God certainly uses expertise, we do well to remember that only God sees inside a heart and challenges or changes a mindset. Not only does this prevent excessive pride, it also is a guard against burnout when our own efforts are not enough.

Thurs, Apr. 5, Psalm 4 According to Prof. Nancy Koester, Psalm 4 is directed in part towards those who struggle with unbelief. She writes, "Verse 1 says that 'God gave us room when we were in distress.' Easter means that God sets us free from the fear of death - God 'gives us room.' In the Psalms, this language means that God lifts us out of a tight spot. What could be tighter than the grave! To the unbelievers (and we all have our moments), God gives "room." Room to rise from the grave of unbelief, room for faith." *Don't let your doubts have final say. Bring your faith and your doubts to God. *http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=267

Fri, Apr. 6, 1 John 3:1-7 We read in 1 John 3 that "What we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when [Jesus] is revealed, we will be like him." (v. 2) While we cannot know the future, we find abiding hope in two things. First the amazing, expansive love of God, a love that has adopted us and called us God's children -even when we were quite ordinary human beings. Second, we know Jesus who was willing to die on our behalf. Our future is hidden in Christ and we await his being revealed. Like a child who is assured of safety as long as they are with their parent, we can be confident that our future is secure in Christ's keeping.

Sat, Apr. 7, Luke 24:36b-48 There are several examples in scripture of times when the risen Christ meets with disciples. Prof. L.L. Hogan shows how these meetings contain encounter, explanation, eating, enlightenment and exit -and are practiced each time we come to church. "We come with our doubts, confusions, fears and misunderstandings...[E]ach week through worship we encounter the risen Christ. In the reciting of the scriptures and the preached word we are offered explanation, proclaiming the good news of what God has and is doing. We may eat with Christ, breaking the bread of the resurrection in the Eucharist...The Spirit brings enlightenment, opening our hearts and minds, setting our hearts afire. Finally, the exit should be ours for Christ has sent us out into the entire world to be witnesses to this amazing news."

http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1238

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