

## 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](mailto:felc@felc.com); 733-2303) or email Pastor Mary ([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 Apr. 15, 2018 At-A-Glance

### Sunday, Apr. 15

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

### Monday

9 a.m.  
5:15 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.  
8:15 p.m.

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

10:30 a.m.  
Noon  
5:45 p.m.  
6:15 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.  
7 p.m.

### Thursday

6 a.m.  
9 a.m.  
5:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m.

### Friday

6:30 a.m.  
**Saturday**  
8 a.m.  
8:30 a.m.  
9 a.m.

### Sunday, Apr. 22

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

DS = Downtown Site    NS = North Site

### Affirmation of Baptism, 10:30 a.m. Both Sites

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

Monday Morning Quilters, DS Fellowship Hall  
Congregational Life Ministry Team, DS Lounge  
GriefShare, DS 221  
Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library  
Finance Committee, DS 110  
Worship & Music Ministry Team, NS Pastor's Office

Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 110  
Noon Hour Philosophers, DS Fellowship Hall  
Handbell Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room  
Wednesday Worship, DS Sanctuary  
Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room  
reFUEL Grades 10-12, NS Youth Room

Early Risers Women's Bible Study, DS Lounge  
Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge  
Executive Committee, DS Lounge  
ATC Open Basketball, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library

Fox Valley Chapter Church Librarians, DS  
Pre-Speaker Coffee (open to all), DS 114  
Presentation: Author Kathy Jacobson (open to all), DS 110

### Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

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

## Update Your Contact Information

Have you moved? Dropped your land line? Got a new cell phone? Changed your email address? Please help FELC stay current by updating your contact information for us. It is fast and easy - just visit [www.felc.com/update](http://www.felc.com/update) and fill out the short form, or email your information to [felc@felc.com](mailto:felc@felc.com). Thank you!



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

# Love Jesus. Live your call.

## Sunday at FELC

### Altar Flowers

The altar flowers at both sites are provided by First English in honor of our students affirming their baptism today.

### Scrip Pick Up

Thanks to all who purchased Scrip cards last week. Please be sure to pick up your cards today at the site you made your purchase.

## Luther College Collegiate Chorale

The Luther College Collegiate Chorale is performing at First Presbyterian Church Neenah (200 Church St.) today, Apr. 15, at 4 p.m. This is the final stop on the group's 2018 spring tour. The ensemble is made up of 100 select junior and senior singers-including First English's own Sarah Bauer! A free-will offering will be taken at the performance.

Conducted by Jennaya Robinson, Collegiate Chorale's program this year is *Prayers for Peace*, including works by Kim Andre Arnese, Moses Hogan, Jake Runestad, and more. Don't miss this opportunity to hear an outstanding college choir perform.



Announcements  
Week of Apr. 15, 2018

## Looking Ahead

### Author Kathy Jacobson Visits on Apr. 21!

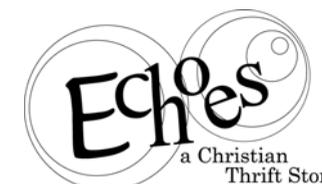
You are invited to hear author Kathy Jacobson speak on "Telling the Story in a New Way" on Saturday, Apr. 21, at 9 a.m. in Room 110 at the Downtown Site. Please join us for coffee and fellowship before the presentation at 8:30 a.m. in Room 114. All are welcome!

Kathy has written four inspirational fiction books in *The Noted!* series. These follow the adventures of Jillian Johnson, a lifelong Lutheran and longtime nurse from Wisconsin. Through thick and thin, her faith in God helps her maneuver all types of situations and enables her to help others. Books will be available for purchase at a discount price of \$10 each.

Please contact Mil Herder, [rherders@aol.com](mailto:rherders@aol.com) or at 738-6640 for more information.

## 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.



## Volunteer Appreciation Sunday Next Week!

In honor of the dedicated volunteers at First English, next Sunday, Apr. 22, a special coffee hour will be held at both sites to celebrate. We hope you are able to attend! There will be a surprise gift from the children of First English for you to take home. Thank you for your service to not only our congregation, but other organizations you support as well.



## 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 next Sunday, Apr. 22, (which is also Volunteer Appreciation Sunday) at the North Site. Please take an opportunity to thank Hannah for her ministry with us!

## New Downtown Site Summer Worship Times

This summer First English will have 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.

## Divorce Care Group

When you are going through the heartache of divorce, we have learned that it is often difficult to come to your own church to discuss those struggles. Although we are cancelling the Divorce Care Group for this session, keep your eye out next fall as we seek to find a neutral site to run this class that has helped so many.

## North Site Discipleship Coordinator Role

FELC is seeking to hire a North Site Discipleship Coordinator. This person will work closely with Pastor Mary and the Invitation and Hospitality Ministry Team. A main responsibility of this part-time 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](http://www.felc.com/forms) or speak to Pastor Mary. Submit your cover letter and resume to [bsmongeski@felc.com](mailto:bsmongeski@felc.com) or mail to the Church Office at 326 E. North St., Appleton, WI, 54911.

## Fox River Chamber Fest

The Fox River Chamber Fest, hosted by The Arthur Krempin School of Music & Art returns to First English this summer. The Fest's musicians are accomplished professional, presenting four different free concerts in eight days: Friday, July 13, Sunday, July 15, Thursday, July 19 and Saturday, July 21. All performances will be at the FELC Downtown Site at 7 p.m., except Sunday's which will be at 3 p.m. We also invite you to a special music matinee performance on Sunday, May 6 at 1:30 p.m. at FELC, in anticipation of the Chamber Fest. This preview concert will be a great chance to get a glimpse of the July event. You'll also have the chance to meet and talk with the performers during the reception that follows.

## Noon Hour Philosophers

The Noon Hour Philosophers meet for an hour at noon in the Downtown Site Fellowship Hall each Wednesday through Apr. 25. If you have questions please contact Mary Poulson at [mmaryjep@att.net](mailto:mmaryjep@att.net) or (920)734-8137.

### Apr. 18: *Changes in Higher Education*

Martin D. Rudd, Ph.D, C Chem FRSC  
Regional Executive Officer and Dean  
UW Colleges, Northeast Region

## 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 May 7. 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.

## Lunch and Learn Program

As a community service, Wichmann-Fargo Funeral Homes & Crematories will be conducting a complimentary *Lunch and Learn* program on Wednesday, Apr. 18, at 11 a.m. at The StoneYard Bar and Grill, N1739 Lily of the Valley Drive, Greenville. This program will explain the emotional and financial benefits of advance funeral planning followed by informal questions, answers and a complimentary light meal. Seat reservations should be made by calling Wichmann-Fargo Funeral Homes & Crematories at (920)297-2742.

## 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
- Dean Peterson
- Elaine Gareau
- Bev Hoff

## Prayers of Comfort

Families of:

- Steve Grothe
- Kathy Putzer

## 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
- SPC Samuel Sinclair

## This Week's Community Care Focus

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fox Valley Region

Contact: 739-3542; [www.bbbsfvr.org](http://www.bbbsfvr.org)



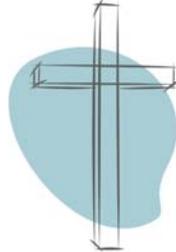
# High School Youth News

Grades 9-12

Apr. 15, 2018

## reFUEL

DS Youth Room  
WEDNESDAYS 7-8 P.M.  
For 9-12 Grade Students  
Friends are always welcome!



4/18: **SPECIAL EVENT REFUEL**  
Meet at NS for a bonfire

(weather permitting)

9<sup>th</sup> graders - join us!!!

Bring a lawn chair and blanket  
just in case we run out of space.



4/25: Scripture and Song Lyrics

Discussion and game-DS Youth Room



### ELCA Youth Gathering Updates

#### April Calendar

Apr. 15: Scrip Pick Up  
(Today)

Apr. 18: Bonfire at NS at  
7pm (weather permitting)

#### HEY GRADUATING SENIORS!

Watch for information regarding Senior Recognition Sunday happening May 20.

Don't forget about the scholarship opportunities that are available through FELC. Applications and their qualifications can be found on the FELC website [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms) under the high school column. Contact Heidi with any questions ([hschreiner@felc.com](mailto:hschreiner@felc.com)).

Apr. 15, 2018



Information for FELC Youth and Families  
Grades K-12



*This is the day that  
the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and  
be glad in it!  
~ Psalm 118:24*

#### 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](mailto:kowens@felc.com)  
Heidi Schreiner, Youth & Summer Ministry Coordinator: [hschreiner@felc.com](mailto:hschreiner@felc.com)

***Love Jesus. Live your call.***



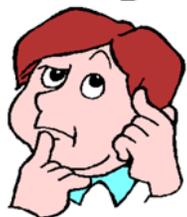
**Elementary  
Sunday School, Song,  
And Special News**



**Confirmation and  
Middle School Scoop**



## So Where Did Jesus Go? John & Luke Were In the Know



We spend a lot of time preparing during Lent and then rejoicing when Jesus leaves an empty tomb resurrected to wash away our sins. Your student may ask...ummm...so then what? It's an obvious question. The gospels of Matthew and Mark end soon after the telling of the resurrection but Luke and John give us a more extended explanation of what Jesus was up to. Check out John 20: 24-29 when Jesus dispels the doubts of Thomas. Or read Luke 24:13-35 as Jesus is approached on the road to Emmaus, at first he is not identifiable but the amazement of this encounter is realized during His supper with a couple of disciples. Other books in the Bible talk about these appearances too. Read 1 Corinthians 15: 3-8 where Paul gives a tally of how many saw the resurrected Christ (not just the disciples but more than **500 brothers and sisters, wow!**). The story of Jesus' resurrection was spreading and more and more people were seeing a man they thought had died. Pretty amazing and wonderful story!

## Are You Ready For The Summer?

FELC summer activities are open for registration. Go to [www.felc.com/summer](http://www.felc.com/summer) to sign-up. Don't miss all the summer fun!



## Choir Corner

Angelus Choir  
sings  
today at  
the 8 a.m.



worship  
Cherub Choir sings on  
Apr. 29 at the 9:15 a.m.  
worship.

BLESSINGS\*BLESSINGS\*BLESSINGS\*BLESSINGS



## This Is Just the Beginning!

Confirmands, today is a really important day, you have moved forward in your faith life. You've studied, discussed, prayed, camped, played games, and sang. You dug into the Old Testament and the life of Jesus. You heard community leaders tell of their work in the world and talked about how to live like Jesus in your daily lives. You have done family assignments, tons of sermon notes, read devotions, rang bells, made meals, donated Compassion Pantry items for your fellow students and assisted with worship. You have developed great friendships with peers at church and been encouraged by your leaders.

It's easy to think of today as a graduation but DON'T! This is a moment of celebration on a lifelong journey. Your First English faith family continues to walk alongside you as an adult member, fellow Christians in the world rejoice with your choice today too, and many others will see the light of Christ shine through you even if they don't know Jesus. You will do wonderful things in the hands of God. Keep nurturing your faith. Today is a blessing and tomorrow can be even better!

BLESSINGS\*BLESSINGS\*BLESSINGS\*BLESSINGS

*Have questions or want to volunteer?  
Contact Kirsten Owens at [kowens@felc.com](mailto:kowens@felc.com) or 733-2303.*

# 2018 Confirmands

**We celebrate with joy and thanksgiving  
the confirmation of these students,  
wishing them many blessings  
on their continued walk with Christ!**

*Delaney Reese Ambrose*

*Benjamin Lane Angst*

*Taylor Ann Boardman*

*Ciaran Jaden Federico Assmus Cole*

*Ethan Phillip Diehl*

*Natalie Kay Gatien*

*Katrina Claire Gebert*

*Brianna Mae Hauser*

*Rylie Alexandra Hechel*

*Emma Lauren Hermansen*

*Mia Lin Hermansen*

*Martin Andrew Holtebeck*

*Ethan Spencer Jermain*

*Samantha Lee Kauti*

*Kellyn Grace Kennedy*

*Joshua Douglas Klemp*

*Reese Cherie Koski*

*Alayna Paige Kowald*

*Madison Cristina Mae Landsverk*

*Jacob Andrew Larsen*

*Ethan Matthew Laumer*

*Kristin Michelle Mahnke*

*Jeffrey Anderson-Seong Messer*

*Skyler A. Mulder*

*Elijah Lynn Nash*

*McKenna Amanda Olson*

*Kieran David Larson Owens*

*Lucas Jeffrey Picken*

*Emma Robin Rundquist*

*Joseph Scott Sargeant II*

*Emily Grace Schmidt*

*Marley Vilamae Schneider*

*Lilly Elizabeth Smith*

*Aidan Thomas Strachota*

*Jack Thomas Witt*

*Jared Takei Wouters*

## FELC DS Engage Page: Easter 3, April 15, 2018

**Luke 24:36-48** *While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you -- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.*

**Sun, Apr. 15:** Family Project: "Peace be with you." Jesus gives this greeting often, reminding us that his presence brings peace. This version of the song, "I've Got Peace Like a River", has the word peace floating along as though it were enjoying the Lazy River at a water park. What are the things that bring each of you peace? Imagine yourself floating along. What are the things that come to mind? Learn the song so you can access God's peace on the craziest days. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7it5W1FVtTs>

**Mon, Apr. 16:** Luke reminds us that repentance and forgiveness of sins are to be proclaimed in Jesus name to all nations. Sometimes we try to limit our proclamation, only speaking of forgiveness. We try to ignore that we are first asked to repent. While we know that God forgives, it is repentance that will grow the seeds of change. By acknowledging our own shortcomings, we are reminded of our need to rely on God whenever we encounter temptation.

**Tues, Apr. 17:** We read in 1 John 3:1, "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are." This is a wonderful way to remember the Easter story. The love of God reaches beyond the barriers that we raise of outsiders and insiders and calls each of us one of His children. As you listen to the song, "Children of God" by Third Day, think about ways that you can share this inclusive sort of love with those whom society marginalizes. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6jO7xhU\\_Pw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6jO7xhU_Pw)

**Wed., Apr. 18, Acts 4:5-12** Have you ever been tempted to discount God's work in the life of someone from a different denomination? When the Sadducees hear that Peter and John are continuing the miraculous works of Jesus and teaching that Jesus rose from the dead –they are angry and instigate the apostle's arrest. The high priest asks, "By what power or by what name did you do this?", Peter responds, "If we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you...that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead." God doesn't have to follow our religious rules! When God works healing and wholeness, don't let theological barriers prevent your rejoicing!

**Thurs, Apr. 19, Psalm 23** In his book "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23", Phillip Keller writes, "It is no accident that God has chosen to call us sheep. The behavior of sheep and human beings is similar in many ways... Our mass mind (or mob instincts), our fears and timidity, our stubbornness and stupidity, our perverse habits are all parallels of profound importance. Yet despite these adverse characteristics Christ chooses us, buys us, calls us by name, makes us His own, and delights in caring for us." (p. 22) My slight experience with sheep makes me believe that Keller has them –and us–pegged. Praise God for looking beyond all the annoying aspects of humanity to chase us down with divine goodness and mercy.

**Fri, Apr. 20, 1 John 3:16-24** 1 John is written after a church controversy. Some people had come in with a new teaching, there was a split in the church and part of the congregation left. This is a scenario that has been repeated more times than any one of us can write. In fact, if we were to look at the church history of nearly all churches, this sort of conflict and splitting would happen at regular intervals, sometimes over the most inconsequential of issues. What are we to do when our church world is torn by conflict? These verses are very clear. We love. We believe in Jesus and practice love. May our loving actions move us beyond conflict.

**Sat, Apr. 21, John 10:11-18** By using the title Pastor, we can fall prey to the assumption that religious leaders are set above the rest of the church. However, as Gail O'Day writes, "Nowhere in this discourse are any who follow Jesus depicted as shepherds or even assistant shepherds. Rather, all who gather around Jesus receive their identity as members of the flock...In the end, to be a member of Jesus' flock is to know oneself as being among those for whom Jesus is willing to die."\* Praise God that we are all equal members of his flock, forever in his care. \*New Interpreter's Bible Commentary, Volume IX, Gail O'Day (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995) p. 672.

\*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 2, April 15, 2018

**John 20:19-31** *When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.*

**Sun, Apr. 15:** Family Project: John says that he could have written about many other things that Jesus did, but he chose these events and teachings so that people would believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that this belief would give them life! Have everyone in the family share the story, teaching or parable that helps them in their faith. Which stories would your family be sure to put in "the Gospel according to ....?"

**Mon, Apr. 16:** The actions of our children or friends may deeply distress us one day, and another day simply cause us to shrug our shoulders and smile. Consequently, it seems that our peace is more dependent on internal circumstances than on external ones. When Jesus says, "Peace be with you," he is asking you to rest in his love, understanding that your value is not determined by the actions of those around you.

**Tues, Apr. 17:** What is this about forgiving and retaining sins? Jesus admonishes us over and over to forgive sins, going so far as to tell us to pray that our sins will be forgiven in the same way that we are able to forgive. More than teaching us to aspire to retain sins, this passages reminds us that whenever we retain or dwell on wrongs done against us, then we retain the corrosive effects of those sins.

**Wed., Apr. 18, Acts 8:26-40** Confronted by the religious elite, Stephen has just given an amazing testimony of God's faithful work throughout history. His message and miracles offend the religious leaders and he is stoned. After his death, there is widespread persecution among the believers in Jesus, causing them to spread out to the Samaritans bringing the gospel message with them. Samaritans had been seen as outsiders to faith and culture. Today's story spreads the good news even farther afield, into Ethiopia as a court administrator hears the gospel message from Philip and is baptized. In this entertaining account of evangelism, be mindful that here is the gospel at its most powerful, exploding through barriers of religion and culture to bring healing and forgiveness.

**Thurs, Apr. 19, Psalm 22:25-31** Written from the point of view of someone who feels abandoned by God, this psalm begins with the words that Jesus cries from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" It goes on to ask, "Why are you so far from helping me?" When we go through trials and struggles, it is easy and even natural to ask God, "WHY?" Today's passage encourages us to be honest to God and to bring our questions to the community. It is in worship that we are reminded of God's power and experience God's presence. With the psalmist we sing, "From you comes my praise in the great congregation." (v. 25)

**Fri, Apr. 20, 1 John 4:7-21** When I read these verses, my mind goes back to high school and countless bus rides from church, as we went to some youth event. We memorized 1 John 4:7 & 8 in song form, adding a particularly fun clapping part. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9zEHqQLI18>) In fact, the memory of the song is accompanied by a strong sense of community, as all who were together were determined to share love with one another. Very dedicated Christians can encourage us to despise brothers and sisters in Christ who think differently than we do. Remember, "since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another." (v. 11)

**Sat, Apr. 21, John 15:1-8** When looking at a vine, we are not impressed by individual limbs or branches, but on the health of the entire plant – the interconnectedness of the whole. If one branch begins to take over, we snip it back to encourage new growth in another area. As a community in Christ, we are called to abide in the vine. Our goal is not to outgrow our brothers and sisters, but to help one another abide –to experience the presence of God. Our society can emphasize individualism and autonomy, but as we look at a vine, it is generally difficult to tell where one branch begins and another one ends. It certainly is difficult to tell which branch is the only leader. May our Christian community emphasize the prospering of all, rather than idolization of religious superstars.

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## 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](mailto:felc@felc.com); 733-2303) or email Pastor Mary ([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 Apr. 22, 2018 At-A-Glance

### Sunday, Apr. 22

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

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

6:30 a.m.  
6 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.

### Thursday

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

### Friday

6:30 a.m.

### Sunday, Apr. 29

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

DS = Downtown Site

### Affirmation of Baptism, 10:30 a.m. Both Sites

### Volunteer Appreciation Sunday Postponed Until 4/29

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

Monday Morning Quilters, DS Fellowship Hall  
GriefShare, DS 221  
Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library  
Baptism Workshop, DS Lounge  
Congregation Council, DS 221

Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 110  
Noon Hour Philosophers, DS Fellowship Hall  
Handbell Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room  
Wednesday Worship, DS Sanctuary  
Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room  
reFUEL Grades 10-12, NS Youth Room

Early Risers Women's Bible Study, DS Lounge  
Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge  
FELC Book Club, DS Lounge  
Ukulele Combo Rehearsal, DS Choir Room  
ATC Open Basketball, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library

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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

NS = North Site

## Sunday at FELC

### Altar Flowers

The altar flowers at both sites are provided by First English in honor of our students affirming their baptism today.

The additional arrangement at the Downtown Site is provided by Dick and Nadine Gade in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Apr. 20.

### Special Coffee Hour

Join us as for coffee, juice and treats this morning in the Gathering Area as we congratulate the Confirmands. In addition at the North Site, please wish a fond farewell and Godspeed to Hannah Sprenger.

## Looking Ahead

### Noon Hour Philosophers

The Noon Hour Philosophers meet for the last time this season at noon on Wednesday, Apr. 25 in the Downtown Site Fellowship Hall. We hope you have enjoyed this series!

*Apr. 25: Poetry Lives*

Rusty McKenzie and Her Fellow Poets

## Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

### Next Week!

In honor of the dedicated volunteers at First English, next Sunday, Apr. 29, a special coffee hour will be held at both sites to celebrate. We hope you are able to attend! There will be a surprise gift from the children of First English for you to take home. Thank you for your service to not only our congregation, but other organizations you support as well.



### 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
- Elaine Gareau
- Bev Hoff
- Dean Peterson

### Prayers of Comfort

Families of:

- Steve Grothe
- Elaine Krueger
- Kathy Putzer

### 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
- SPC Samuel Sinclair

### This Week's Community Care Focus

- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley

Contact: 750-5846; [www.bgclubfoxvalley.org](http://www.bgclubfoxvalley.org)

## FELC DS Engage Page: Easter 4, April 22, 2018

**John 10:11-18** *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away -- and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."*

Sun, Apr. 15: Family Project: I love watching videos of farmers calling sheep. In this video, the farmer has various people try to call in the sheep who are grazing and the sheep barely lift their heads. But when the shepherd comes –the sheep know his voice. They associate the sound of his voice with food and comfort –good things. Talk together about how we recognize the voice of the shepherd.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e45dVgWgV64>

Mon, Apr. 16: In his book, "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23", Phillip Keller writes, *"In memory I can still see one of the sheep ranches in our district which was operated by a tenant sheepman. He ought never to have been allowed to keep sheep. His stock were always thin, weak, and riddled with disease or parasites. Again and again they would come and stand at the fence staring blankly through the woven wire at the green lush pastures which my flock enjoyed. Had they been able to speak I am sure they would have said, "Oh, to be set free from this awful owner!"* (p. 23) As part of Jesus' flock, we enjoy the lush, green grass of acceptance, forgiveness, hope and grace. Why do we remain silent, buying into the belief that our faith offers only judgment? Others are looking over the fence. Share your abundant life in Jesus.

Tues, Apr. 17: When we read in the 23rd Psalm, *"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want"*, the psalmist is not saying that he will never suffer from poverty or that his every secret wish will be granted. Rather he will be satisfied with the control that the Lord has in his life. People from countries that suffer a lack of resources often carry an incredible amount of joy, accustomed to leaving their days in Jesus' care. May we all experience the peace of doing the same.

Wed., Apr. 18, Acts 8:26-40 Confronted by the religious elite, Stephen has just given an amazing testimony of God's faithful work throughout history. His message and miracles offend the religious leaders and he is stoned. After his death, there is widespread persecution among the believers in Jesus, causing them to spread out to the Samaritans bringing the gospel message with them. Samaritans had been seen as outsiders to faith and culture. Today's story spreads the good news even farther afield, into Ethiopia as a court administrator hears the gospel message from Philip and is baptized. In this entertaining account of evangelism, be mindful that here is the gospel at its most powerful, exploding through barriers of religion and culture to bring healing and forgiveness.

Thurs, Apr. 19, Psalm 22:25-31 Written from the point of view of someone who feels abandoned by God, this psalm begins with the words that Jesus cries from the cross, *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* It goes on to ask, *"Why are you so far from helping me?"* When we go through trials and struggles, it is easy and even natural to ask God, "WHY?" Today's passage encourages us to be honest to God and to bring our questions to the community. It is in worship that we are reminded of God's power and experience God's presence. With the psalmist we sing, *"From you comes my praise in the great congregation."* (v. 25)

Fri, Apr. 20, 1 John 4:7-21 When I read these verses, my mind goes back to high school and countless bus rides from church, as we went to some youth event. We memorized 1 John 4:7 & 8 in song form, adding a particularly fun clapping part. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9zEHqQLI18>) In fact, the memory of the song is accompanied by a strong sense of community, as all who were together were determined to share love with one another. Very dedicated Christians can encourage us to despise brothers and sisters in Christ who think differently than we do. Remember, *"since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another."* (v. 11)

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## FELC NS Engage Page: Easter 5, April 22, 2018

*John 15:1-8 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.*

Sun, Apr. 22: Family Project: How do we abide with Jesus? According to Wikipedia, Francis H. Lyte wrote the words to the great hymn "Abide With Me" as he lay dying of tuberculosis. He lived only three weeks after its completion. After listening to or singing with this hymn, talk about your most difficult struggles. How has God helped you through these trials? If you have young children, you can certainly speak in more general terms. However all will grow in faith as you openly share the ways God's presence has sustained you in life's difficulties. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84YASWe3\\_2Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84YASWe3_2Q)

Mon, Apr. 23: Recently, I was shown a great new key on my computer—the home key. (*Ok, it was only new to me.*) It brings me back up to the top of whatever page I'm visiting on the internet. This experience reinforced a very simple and apparent truth: You cannot use what you do not know. When Jesus asks us to abide in him, he asks us to know his words and promises. In the Bible, Peter asks us to cast all our cares on Jesus; the author of Hebrews reminds us Jesus will never leave us; we hear in Jesus' words in Matthew that we will find rest for our souls. We experience these promises because we know them and abide in them. Spend time abiding in Jesus each day!

Tues, Apr. 24: Where have you felt safest? When I was a little girl, I felt safe whenever I was near my Dad, sitting on his lap, resting in his love. At other times it was when the tires of my car turned into the driveway at home, or when I was surrounded by friends and family—resting in love and acceptance. Abiding in God's words in the middle of struggles is like coming home, like resting with my dad's arms around me, or seeing the smile and feeling the hug of a long absent friend. Be renewed as you abide in Jesus' love.

Wed., Apr. 25, Acts 4:5-12 Have you ever been tempted to discount God's work in the life of someone from a different denomination? When the Sadducees hear that Peter and John are continuing the miraculous works of Jesus and teaching that Jesus rose from the dead—they are angry and instigate the apostle's arrest. The high priest asks, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"; Peter responds, "If we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you...that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead." God doesn't have to follow our religious rules! When God works healing and wholeness, don't let theological barriers prevent your rejoicing!

Thurs, Apr. 26, Psalm 23 In his book "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23", Phillip Keller writes, "It is no accident that God has chosen to call us sheep. The behavior of sheep and human beings is similar in many ways... Our mass mind (or mob instincts), our fears and timidity, our stubbornness and stupidity, our perverse habits are all parallels of profound importance. Yet despite these adverse characteristics Christ chooses us, buys us, calls us by name, makes us His own, and delights in caring for us." (p. 22) My slight experience with sheep makes me believe that Keller has them—and us—pegged. Praise God for looking beyond all the annoying aspects of humanity to chase us down with divine goodness and mercy.

Fri, Apr. 27, I John 3:16-24 I John is written after a church controversy. Some people had come in with a new teaching, there was a split in the church and part of the congregation left. This is a scenario that has been repeated more times than any one of us can write. In fact, if we were to look at the church history of nearly all churches, this sort of conflict and splitting would happen at regular intervals, sometimes over the most inconsequential of issues. What are we to do when our church world is torn by conflict? These verses are very clear. We love. We believe in Jesus and practice love. May our loving actions move us beyond conflict.

Sat, Apr. 28, John 10:11-18 By using the title Pastor, we can fall prey to the assumption that religious leaders are set above the rest of the church. However, as Gail O'Day writes, "Nowhere in this discourse are any who follow Jesus depicted as shepherds or even assistant shepherds. Rather, all who gather around Jesus receive their identity as members of the flock...In the end, to be a member of Jesus' flock is to know oneself as being among those for whom Jesus is willing to die."\* Praise God that we are all equal members of his flock, forever in his care. \*New Interpreter's Bible Commentary, Volume IX, Gail O'Day (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995) p. 672.

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