

## 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. 8, 2018 At-A-Glance

### Sunday, Apr. 8

8:50 a.m. Cherub/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room  
9:15 a.m. Adult Learning Time, DS Lounge  
9:15/9:25 a.m. Children's Learning Time, DS/NS  
9:30 a.m. Women's Study Group, NS Library  
Noon Marriage Mentors Get Together, NS Library

### Monday

9 a.m. Monday Morning Quilters, DS Fellowship Hall  
Noon Intern Enrichment Ministry Team, DS Lounge  
5:15 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting, DS Lounge  
6:30 p.m. GriefShare, DS 221  
8:15 p.m. Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

### Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Men's Ministry, NS Library  
7 p.m. Men's Ministry, DS 221

### Wednesday

10:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 110  
Noon Noon Hour Philosophers, DS Fellowship Hall  
Noon Sarah Circle, DS 114  
1 p.m. Miriam Circle, DS Library  
4 p.m. Property Oversight Committee, DS Office Workroom  
5:15 p.m. Confirmation 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Rehearsal Meal & Photos, NS  
5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room  
6:15 p.m. Wednesday Worship, DS Sanctuary  
6:15 p.m. Divorce Care Group, DS 114  
6:30 p.m. Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room  
7 p.m. reFUEL Grades 10-12, DS Youth Room

### Thursday

6 a.m. Early Risers Women's Bible Study, DS Lounge  
9 a.m. Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge  
Noon 50+ Speaker: Journey to the Antarctic, DS Fellowship Hall  
7:30 p.m. ATC Open Basketball, NS Activity Center

### Friday

6:30 a.m. Men's Ministry, NS Library

### Sunday, Apr. 15

**Affirmation of Baptism, 10:30 a.m. Both Sites**  
8:50 a.m. Cherub/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room  
9:15 a.m. Adult Learning Time, DS Lounge  
9:15/9:25 a.m. Children's Learning Time, DS/NS  
9:30 a.m. Women's Study Group, NS Library

DS = Downtown Site    NS = North Site

### 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 Downtown Site altar flowers are provided by Le Roy and Ginny Ziesemer in honor of their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Apr. 11.

#### Scrip Sale Today!

The youth heading to the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer are selling Scrip cards today in the Gathering Area. Please see the form in today's bulletin. You can also download an order form at [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms). Orders with payment (cash or check) are due to the Church Office by noon tomorrow, Monday, Apr. 9. Orders will be available for pick up next Sunday, Apr. 15. Thank you for your continued support!

#### LWR Coffee Project

First English has been a strong supporter of the Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project for over 20 years. 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.



The number of fair trade products available to us continues to grow. Check out our table display today. We depend on your continued support of the Coffee Project.

Announcements  
Week of Apr. 8, 2018

### Community Worship Service

A community worship service is being offered today, Sunday, Apr. 8, at 3 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Paper Valley Hotel to help mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. A group of Christian leaders, drawn from across the spectrum of denominations, ethnicity, and religious tradition, are planning the event entitled *Remembering Reverend King: A Community Worship Encounter*. This event marks 50 years since King's death and will bring grief and sobering recognition of how far we have yet to go in pursuit of Dr. King's dream. Speakers will talk about King's gospel message in five themes: Unity, Freedom, Love, Justice and Peace.

### Looking Ahead

#### 50+ Program

On Thursday, Apr. 12, Dick Campbell will present the program entitled: *The Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Journey to the Antarctic*. 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.



### Divorce Care Group

Are you divorced or going through a divorce? Join the weekly Divorce Care Group on Wednesdays through May 23 from 6:15-8 p.m. in the Downtown Site Lounge, and journey together on a seven-week program. 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.

### New Downtown Site Summer Worship Times

This summer First English is moving to 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.

### 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 [bsmon-geski@felc.com](mailto:bsmon-geski@felc.com) or mail to the Church Office at 326 E. North St., Appleton, WI, 54911.

### Upcoming Concert

The Luther College Collegiate Chorale will be performing at First Presbyterian Church Neenah (200 Church St.) on Sunday, 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. 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. Contact the First Presbyterian Church Office (725-4391) with questions.



### 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.

### Stephen Ministry

Are you going through a difficult time? A Stephen Minister can help. Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through a crisis or a difficult time. To learn how you can receive a Stephen Minister's confidential one-to-one care, contact a pastor.

### 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](mailto:mmaryjep@att.net) or (920)734-8137.

#### Apr. 11: Education for the 21st Century

David Burrows, Professor of Psychology, Former Provost and Dean of the Faculty, 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 end of 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](mailto: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
- Dean Peterson
- Jan Erickson

### Prayers of Comfort

- Families of:
- Steve Grothe
  - Kathy Putzer
  - Joe Walsh

### Prayers of Thanksgiving

- Baptism of:
- Miles Henry Gieseke
- 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

- Bethesda Thrift Shop  
Contact: Mary Beth Murphy, 997-1533
- Echoes, A Christian Thrift Store  
Contact: Kathy Hoffman, 882-8172



# High School Youth News

Grades 9-12

Apr. 8, 2018

## reFUEL

DS Youth Room  
WEDNESDAYS 7-8 P.M.

He is Risen.



4/11: The Pace of Grace  
Video and Discussion

4/18: **SPECIAL EVENT REFUEL**  
Meet at NS for a bonfire  
(weather permitting)  
9<sup>th</sup> graders—join us!!!



4/25: Scripture and Song Lyrics  
Discussion and game



### ELCA Youth Gathering Updates

#### April Calendar

Apr. 8: Scrip Sale  
Apr. 15: Scrip Pick Up  
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))

**Contact Heidi if you're interested in attending the Rise Youth Conference (see front of Youth Insert)**

Apr. 8, 2018



Information for FELC Youth and Families  
Grades K-12

### RISE Youth Conference at Pathways Church in Appleton

Gathering for grades 7-12+

Apr. 13: 5-11pm

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

Registration Cost: \$30

(non-overnight, food not included)

for the purpose of experiencing the gospel through Christ-centered music, teaching, arts, and community.

Speakers: Mike Miller, Jon Brown, Oscar Ortiz, Robby Emery, Greg Washington, Graceann Hector

Musician: DJ Kirk

More info at: [www.riseyouthconference.com](http://www.riseyouthconference.com)

#### 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



### You Can Put Away The Baskets But Not The Season

Easter Sunday is a day filled with joy and excitement as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus! We shout ALLELULIA, wear bright colors, and share time together as a family talking, eating, and picking through goodies in Easter baskets. Easter Sunday may be over but the season of Easter has just begun!

During the next seven Sundays until Pentecost on May 20 we remember that there is the creation of a new community of believers in Christ. This is a time of rejoicing and celebration as we understand we have been saved and given a new life! In the season of Easter the liturgical calendar colors are white or gold (at First English we use white) signifying a holy time of the year.

So, you can put away your Easter baskets  
but don't put away your joy.

A new church is being built through the love of Christ!



### *Confirmands, Start Your Engines!*



*Rehearsal meal, worship, practice, and photos on  
Wed., Apr. 11 from 5:15-8:30 p.m.*

We meet as a faith family to share a meal and acknowledge our leaders and students. A brief worship will follow the meal. After there is rehearsal and photos. We look forward to a time to center our thoughts on the completion of three great years, celebrate the beginnings of adult faith lives, and understand the logistics of Confirmation Sunday.

### 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](http://www.felc.com/forms)  
to sign up.

We need your gifts!



### Choir Corner

Angelus Choir  
sings

on Apr. 15 at the  
8 a.m. worship



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

All are welcome so come  
do that singing thing!

Kid's Life is over until September when it will be back and better than ever! A big thanks to Rachel for a super year!

### *Affirmation of Baptism Sunday*

*Apr. 15, 10:30 a.m. worship services at both sites*

Please be at your site no later than 9:45 a.m. At North Site meet in the Activity Center. Downtown Site confirmands should meet in Fellowship Hall.

*Blessings on this special week!*

Have questions or want to volunteer?

Contact Kirsten Owens at [kowens@felc.com](mailto:kowens@felc.com) or 733-2303.

# First English Lutheran Church SCRIP Order Form

## Benefitting FELC Youth Annual Trips

Order Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:  Pick up at DS  Pick up at NS

### General Information

Please return completed form to the Church Office or email to Heidi Schreiner at [hschreiner@felc.com](mailto:hschreiner@felc.com). Payment is required at time of order. Orders placed by **Noon on Monday, Apr. 9**, will be available for pick up on **Sunday, Apr 15**.

Questions? Contact Heidi Schreiner at (920)733-2303 or [hschreiner@felc.com](mailto:hschreiner@felc.com).

*(Turn this sheet over to select your gift cards.)*

### Totals

Total # Scrip Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Payment Option: (Make checks payable to FELC. Please put "Scrip" in the memo line.)

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash

Retailer	\$ (Choose)	Credit	Qty	Total Cost
Amazon.com	\$25 \$100	2.5%		
Applebee's	\$25	8%		
Barnes & Noble	\$25	8%		
Bath and Body Works	\$25	13%		
Buffalo Wild Wings	\$25	8%		
CVS	\$25 \$100	6%		
Dick's Sporting Goods	\$25 \$100	8%		
Festival	\$50 \$100	3%		
Fleet Farm	\$25 \$100	3.5%		
Funset Boulevard	\$25	9%		
Gap	\$25 \$100	14%		
HomeGood's	\$25 \$100	7%		
Kohl's	\$25 \$100	4%		
Kwik Trip	\$25 \$50 \$100	4%		
Little Caesars	\$20	8%		
		TOTAL		

Retailer	\$ (Choose)	Credit	Qty	Total Cost
Menards	\$25 \$100 \$500	3%		
Motomart	\$50	5%		
Nike	\$25	12%		
Old Navy	\$25 \$100	14%		
Pick N Save	\$50 \$100	4%		
Piggly Wiggly	\$50 \$100	3%		
Sams Club	\$50 \$100 \$250	2.5%		
Starbucks	\$25	7%		
Target	\$25 \$50	2.5%		
TJ Maxx	\$25 \$100	7%		
Uno's Pizzeria	\$25	12%		
Walgreen's	\$25 \$100	5%		
Walmart	\$50 \$100 \$250	2.5%		
		TOTAL		

*Turn this sheet over to provide your contact information.*

## FELC DS Engage Page: Easter 2, April 8, 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. 8:** 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. 9:** 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. 10:** 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. 11, 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. 12, 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](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=267)

**Fri, Apr. 13, 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. 14, 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](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-Downtown-Site-Engage-Page>

## FELC NS Engage Page: Easter Sunday, April 8, 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. 8: 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. 9: 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. 10: 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. 11, 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. 12, 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](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2381)

Fri, Apr. 13, 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. 14, 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 North Site Engage Page>