

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) and the North Site Nursery (off the main hallway, across from the restrooms) are open for family use during all services. Please ask an usher if you need 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

At the Downtown Site, if you are in need of a large print Bible or bulletin, please ask an usher.

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 8:30 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).

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 Aug. 12, 2018 At-A-Glance

Sunday, Aug. 12

8:30 & 10 a.m.

9 a.m.

10 a.m.

Monday

3:30 p.m.

5 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

Tuesday

6:30 a.m.

9 a.m.

1 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

7 p.m.

Wednesday

10:30 a.m.

4:30 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

Friday

6:30 a.m.

Sunday, Aug. 19

8:30 & 10 a.m.

9 a.m.

9:45 a.m.

DS = Downtown Site

Worship, DS Sanctuary

Worship, NS Sanctuary

Ukulele Combo Rehearsal, NS Sanctuary

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday Worship Rehearsal, NS Sanctuary

Young Adult Fellowship, NS Gathering Area & Youth Room

Stephen Ministry, DS Lounge

Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library

Coffee & Convo (Grades 9-12+), Copper Rock, College Ave.

FVLH Visit (All Ages), Fox Valley Lutheran Homes

MSYG (Grades 6-8) Bubolz Nature Preserve

Learning Ministry Team, Pullman's Restaurant

Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 221

Worship Rehearsal, NS Sanctuary

Final Intern-led Wednesday Worship, NS Sanctuary

Ice Cream Social, NS Gathering Area

Final Intern-led reFUEL (Grades 7-12+), NS

Men's Ministry, NS Library

Worship, DS Sanctuary

Worship, NS Sanctuary

God's work. Our hands. Committee, DS Lounge

NS = North Site



First English Lutheran Church

www.felc.com felc@felc.com

Downtown Site

Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 10 a.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: 9 a.m.

Wednesday Worship: 6:15 p.m.

Announcements

Week of Aug. 12, 2018

Love Jesus. Live your call.

First English is committed to becoming a more welcoming, inclusive congregation.

Sunday at FELC

Altar Flowers

The Downtown Site altar flowers are provided in memory of Nina Anderson.

Welcome Back Pastor Mary!

A warm welcome back to Pastor Mary, who returned from her sabbatical on Aug. 6. Thank you to the congregation for the many ways you've cared for one another and lived out your call in her absence.

Generosity Abounds!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the noisy offering at the Downtown Site and North Site the last two Sundays. More than \$1,140 was raised in support of the nonprofit *Loaves and Fishes*.

Looking Ahead

Final Intern-led Wednesday Worship Followed by an Ice Cream Social!

Stay at the North Site after the final intern-led Wednesday Night Worship on Aug. 15 for an ice cream social. Worship begins at 6:15 p.m. and the ice cream social will follow the service in the Gathering Area. All ages are encouraged to participate in celebrating such an awesome summer with our interns. Thank you for your support!

Please note: There will be no worship on Aug. 22 and 29; Wednesday worship resumes at the Downtown Site at 6:15 p.m. on Sept. 5.

Soup, Salad and Song

Join Pastor Mary and her family at their home for their annual concert and buffet, *Soup, Salad, and Song*.

You will enjoy a variety of music, and can fill up on interesting salads, sandwiches, and soup. Besides that, you will enjoy some great company! Scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 19, the dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and the concert will end at 8:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in the Downtown Site Church Office for \$30 and benefit the FELC Summer Intern Ministry.



Shepherds Needed

Super news! The majority of our Sunday School and Confirmation leaders are returning in the fall. However, we have a few vacancies to fill. Currently we need a teacher(s) for the grades 1 & 2 classroom at the Downtown Site and teachers for the age 3 and grades 3 & 4 classrooms at the North Site. In addition, we are looking for a Confirmation large group leader. These are important roles that have a high level of priority to fill prior to the teacher/leader orientation meetings beginning Aug. 29. Contact Kirsten Owens, Faith Formation Coordinator, at kowens@felc.com or (920)733-2303 if you are feeling the call to shepherd our FELC students!



Sign Up for the Weekly Update

Weekly Update is an email sent each Thursday or Friday with upcoming events and news from First English. If you haven't already, please send an email to Meri Hujet at mhujet@felc.com and simply request that you be put on the *Weekly Update* mailing list.

Take Up Your Cross; Walk God's Justice Sisters Together Retreat

Sept. 21-22. Imago Dei Bible Camp, Clintonville

Guest Speaker: Pastor Angel Khabeb from

Ascension Lutheran Church, Waukesha

In Kind Gifts of LWR School Kits and Cross Weaving Art Project

For registration, please contact Carol Cleveland at (920)982-4835 or cacleveland50@gmail.com.

FELC Employment Opportunities

- **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 in our community. Submit your cover letter and resume to bsmongeski@felc.com or mail to the Church Office at 326 E. North St., Appleton, WI, 54911. Have questions? Call Pastor Mary in the Church Office (733-2303).
- **Facilities Technician:** FELC is offering the part-time position of Facilities Technician. The technician maintains the buildings, where their duties may include performing carpentry, painting, general upkeep and repair, landscaping, HVAC, plumbing and electrical maintenance, and other duties as needed. If this rewarding role would be something you'd be interested in, contact Rich Erickson at lefseman@charter.net or Brenda Smongeski at (920)733-2303 or bsmongeski@felc.com.

The job descriptions for these positions can be found at www.felc.com/employment.

50+ Group Tour in September

The 50+ group will tour the 1000 Island Nature Center in Kaukauna on Sept. 13. The group will meet in the Downtown Site church parking lot at 9:45 a.m. to carpool, and leave promptly at 10 a.m. for the nature center. They will stop for lunch after at Landreman's Restaurant in Kaukauna. Please sign up in the Gathering Area if you would like to participate in this fun activity.



Echoes Needs You

Echoes, a Christian Thrift Store needs you to donate and to shop. This vibrant First English ministry is in need of your donations and your shopping dollars. With neighborhood garage sales, Echoes sales typically slow in the summer. Please don't forget Echoes!



God's Work, Our Hands: Let's Get At It! Advocacy for Justice in Today's World

Saturday, Sept. 8, 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Good Shepherd Lutheran

2000 Roosevelt Drive, Plover, WI 54467

Many of us want to help solve the problems in today's world that make us sad or angry, but we don't know exactly what to do. This workshop - which will follow *Cherish All Children's* model of pray, educate, connect, act - will empower you to help make a difference. Pastor Cindy Crane, Director of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy, will speak on the Christian roots of advocacy; Women of the ELCA Director for Justice Jennifer Deleon will speak on immigration; and State Representative Katrina Shankland will provide practical tools to help you advocate effectively through Civic Engagement 101.

After lunch, breakouts will address topics such as immigration, human trafficking, gun violence, domestic violence, and poverty and hunger. The event, co-sponsored by Good Shepherd and Women of the ELCA, ECSW, is free and open to the public. High school students are welcome to attend. Lunch is included. A free will offering will be taken to cover expenses.

To register, visit www.eventbrite.com and type "Advocacy for Justice Plover" in the search bar. Please contact Shirley Paulson at spaulson1949@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

Lunchtime Organ Recitals

Frank Rippl serves as series coordinator for the Lunchtime Organ Recital. Frank is an organist and former music director at All Saints Episcopal Church, Appleton. Concerts are held at churches in the Appleton, Neenah, Menasha and Fox Valley area. Performers donate their talents and churches donate building use. These free concerts are Wednesdays at 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

- Aug. 15: Mario Buchanan, Organ, and Alexandra Piepenbrink, English Horn
First United Methodist Church

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.

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes

- Apartments for rent: 1 BR & 2 BR; Call Becky at 734-7225.
- Volunteers always appreciated! If you like to visit with people, work in the yard, help with property projects, help in the kitchen, bake once in a while, drive people to appointments or play games, call 734-7225. Ask for Becky, Katie or Cheryl; they will find the perfect spot for you to help make a difference at Fox Valley Lutheran Homes.

AA Corner

If you are or someone you know could use some confidential help with stopping drinking, please call Nancy A. at (920)734-9580.

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
- 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
- Bev Hoff
- Walt Rugland
- Rev. Hans Gustafson
- Mary Ellen Ortiz
- Paulette Erickson
- Frank Rippl

Prayers of Comfort Families of:

- Owen "Butch" Hughes
- Kenny Reinholz

Prayers for Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- Stephanie Olson

Prayers for Those in the Military

- Lt. Josh Anderson
- BM3 Kyle Kramer, USCG
- LCPL Robert Kopesky II
- SPC Samuel Sinclair

This Week's Community Care Focus

• Community Circles of Support

Contact: Daniel Burchby, Volunteer Coordinator
(920)840-3037; dburchby@goodwillncw.org

What's Important Now - Weekly Intern News... It's a WIN WIN!

Aug. 12, 2018

From the Desk of Summer Intern Madi Howard

Hello First English, my name is Madi Howard and I have been one of the Elementary Interns this summer. Most of my summer has been filled with planning and participating in KidsCLUB, a free day camp for kids in the community. Above everything else, this summer has definitely been a learning experience! I learned how to go with the flow when things don't go accord-

ing to plan; I learned that God works in mysterious ways and has a plan for every one of us; and most of all, I learned how to be a kid again! It's been such a privilege to spend every week with these kiddos and grow in my faith alongside them. Thank you for all of your support and allowing me to have such an amazing summer.

-Madi Howard

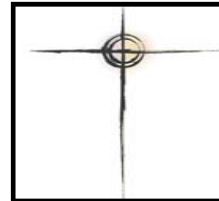


Benefit Concert Thank You

The summer interns would like to thank all who attended the benefit concert, planned and coordinated by our very own interns Hannah, Carmen, and Abbey. Thank you to everyone who donated to The Center for Suicide Awareness to help support their mission. \$435 was raised at the concert!

Noah's Ark Trip Cancelled

The middle and high school trip to Noah's Ark scheduled for tomorrow, Aug. 13, has been canceled due to low registrations. Hope to see you next year for some fun in the sun!



Youth News

Aug. 12, 2018

Middle School Youth Group

Middle School Youth Group is a great way to become involved with the church community, through both outreach and fellowship. Tuesday, Aug. 14, we invite students grades 6-8 to join summer interns Reilly and Jack at Bubolz Nature Center for the last MYSG of the summer. This will be a lovely opportunity to appreciate God's world together as a final meeting with our middle school aged students.

Wednesday Night Worship, reFUEL & Ice Cream Social!

Please join the interns for the final intern-led worship this Wednesday, Aug. 15, at 6:15 p.m. at the North Site. To show their appreciation of your support of their ministry, they also invite you to an ice cream social in the Gathering Area following worship. All are welcome!

This Wednesday is also the final intern-led reFUEL of the summer (grades 9-12+).

Wednesday night worship (All ages) will resume at the Downtown Site on Sept. 5, while Confirmation (Grades 7-9), and reFUEL (Grades 10-12) will begin Sept. 19 at the Downtown Site.

The interns had a wonderful experience being in worship and fellowship with the congregation the past 10 weeks. Please keep them in prayer as they head back to college this fall.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Summer may be coming to an end, but there are still plenty of opportunities to be active in the church and have a good time doing it!

Sign up for *God's work, Our hands.* in the Gathering Area or online at www.felc.com. T-shirts are also available for sale through today (see the insert in this bulletin.)

God's work. Our hands. offers both indoor and outdoor projects in the community. It will take place on Sept. 9, and projects will conclude by noon. This is an excellent opportunity to Live your call!

Coffee and Convo

Join our summer interns Jack and Reilly for the last Coffee and Convo of the summer! Meet at the College Ave. Copper Rock for coffee from 9-10:30 a.m. on Aug. 14. Thank you to everyone who has participated in this program this summer, we've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you all!



God's work. Our hands.

2018 T-Shirt Order Form

Deadline: TODAY!

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. You work every day to make your community a better place. Let's do this work together!

Payment is due at time of order. Make checks payable to FELC. Thank you!

Sign up for the project of your choice starting today! First come, first served.

To sign up, or for more project details and age recommendations, visit the God's work. Our hands. table in the Gathering Area. You may also visit www.felc.com/forms to sign up online. (Note: No project will go past noon; some may even be completed earlier.)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Pick up at: Downtown Site North Site

Size:

Youth(\$3) small medium large

Adult(\$3) small medium large x-large

Adult (\$4) 2XL Adult (\$5) 3XL

Adult (\$6) 4XL Adult (\$7) 5XL

Total quantity ordered: _____

Total due: _____ Check number: _____

Drop off or mail this form with payment to the FELC Church Office, 326 E. North St., Appleton WI 54911 or place order at www.felc.com/forms.

PAYMENT DUE WITH ORDER

DEADLINE TO ORDER: TODAY

T-shirt distribution will take place in late August/early September in the Gathering Area.

DOWNTOWN SITE	NORTH SITE
Making Seed Bombs	Making Seed Bombs
Painted Rocks	Painted Rocks
Apple Crisp Assembly	Apple Crisp Assembly
No Sew Blankets	No Sew Blankets
Seeds of Grace Butterfly Garden	School Backpack Assembly
Casserole Ministry*	Casserole Ministry*
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	
Apple Creek YMCA	Loaves & Fishes
Fox Valley Lutheran Homes	Jake's Diapers
Building for Kids	

**Assembly will take place at your home, then brought to the Downtown Site Office. This is a great option for those who may be out of town on Sept. 9, but want to be a part of the God's work. Our hands. initiative. This ministry is a year round need at First English.*

FELC DS Engage Page: Pentecost 12, August 12, 2018

John 6:35,41-51 *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ...Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."*

Sun, Aug. 12: Family Project: The people of Israel received manna from God for their physical hunger. God sent Jesus, the bread of life to help people with their spiritual hunger. What are the promises of God that help you feel fed and refreshed even in the middle of struggles? Make a collage of pictures that remind you of God's provision and put it on the refrigerator for a daily reminder.

Mon, Aug. 13: Have you been in a situation where what you know about someone is at odds with what others say about them? This is the situation for the Jews in John 6. They *know* Jesus is the son of Mary and Joseph and *cannot* believe that he is bread from heaven who compares himself to the great prophet, Moses. Sometimes our knowledge with the ways of the world will cause us to doubt the teachings of Jesus. Instead of trusting the past, believe that God is calling you to the *unknown*— a world of grace and forgiveness.

Tues, Aug. 14: Jesus says, "*No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me;*" (v. 44) If someone says they are drawn to the Christian faith we imagine an interest or a curiosity. However, Prof. Brian Peterson teaches that the word used for drawn is more accurately translated "dragged" as when a fisherman drags a net into a boat.* Sometimes we are reluctant to change old mindsets and prejudices. Give thanks that God will drag us into the presence of Jesus! *http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=368

Wed., Aug. 15, Proverbs 9:1-6, Claudia Randerson, Wisdom is calling us from the highest point of the city and welcoming us with open arms! The simple are called, which means that we don't need to feel unqualified or "too far gone". Rejoice for this warm welcome and the grace that comes along with this call! This will not be an easy task and often we will be going against the grain of the world, but the blessings that come with wisdom and obedience are so much better than the worldly things we often say yes to. As a church let's be bold in our faith, and with God's mercy in view, offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to worship our almighty, loving God!

Thurs, Aug. 16, Psalm 34:9-14, Lexi Woerishofer Oftentimes, whenever the news is turned on, there are stories of evil, hate, and people hurting. I find it easy to get stuck in that; to get consumed by the negativity and evil that surrounds us. Today's lesson is a reminder that there will always be people in this world not working for peace and justice which can instill a sense of fear within us; but we, as God's children, need to take the evil surrounding us and turn it into good work. We will always face oppressors and obstacles, but the more we pursue peace, the more peace will come and we will continue to live as an image of God.

Fri., Aug. 17, Ephesians 5:15-20 Why do people drink alcohol? Often times the physical sense of warmth is translated into an emotional sense of warmth. The trouble is, these responses can become addictive so that people believe they need alcohol to experience a sense of well-being. Unfortunately, we all know that the more someone uses alcohol for escape, the harder it is to achieve that escape. Misuse of alcohol can be very harmful to our bodies. Instead, Paul gives us a wonderful alternative. "*Be filled with the Spirit.*" Let the Spirit of God warm your hearts with a well-being that has no negative side effects!

Sat, Aug 18, John 6:51-58 One of the worst menu decisions I've ever been part of was for my junior prom. We catered in a meal and to ensure no one left hungry, we ordered a half chicken for everyone. The pieces were cumbersome, especially when you were wearing formal dresses and tuxedos. Most of us simply picked at our meal, doing the best we could without picking up the pieces and chowing down. Much of the chicken ended up being wasted. In this passage, Jesus talks about eating his flesh and the word he uses implies the sort of gnawing used by a really hungry animal. When we come to Holy Communion, we can come in a sort of half hearted way, picking at the meal without being digging in to the repentance, forgiveness, and new life that our faith calls for. Come to the holy meal, committed to the Bread of Life.

*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: Pentecost 13, August 12, 2018

John 6:51-58 *I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."*

Sun, Aug. 12: Family Project: Jesus is *"the living bread...from heaven."* Spend some time talking about what you think heaven will be like. Watch the video, "The Legend of the Northern Lights—Alaska Legend" and talk about how this compares to your idea of heaven. Find comfort in knowing Jesus has prepared a home for us in heaven. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljLbeISADzo>)

Mon, Aug. 13: Before we knew that rawhide bones could be dangerous, we gave one to our Golden Retriever every Christmas. With single-minded devotion, he devoured even the largest bone within a day. He was the picture of contented preoccupation. This type of gnawing is the actual translation of "eat" in the passage *"Those who eat [gnaw on] my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life."* (v. 54) All we need for life and health comes through Jesus' words and our participation with the community in Holy Communion. May we always be contentedly gnawing away on all our faith has to offer.

Tues, Aug. 14: Many people see this passage as John's teaching on the Lord's Supper. As such, it is important to note that he doesn't dwell on Jesus' death, but on his life—that Jesus is living bread. Prof. Caroline Lewis reminds us, *"eternal life is not something you can conveniently and conventionally postpone to your future but is your promise in the present, that any claim about life with Jesus, life with God, means an abiding, a unity, a reciprocity, and oneness. It means real relationship, here and now... life lived in the moment as God's grace upon grace."** In addition to remembering Jesus' death, may Holy Communion be a celebration of living life in union with God.

*<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=3667>

Wed., Aug. 15, I Kings 19:4-8, Christian Bakken As a regular hiker, it's easy to sympathize with Elijah, since an extra snack or drink of water can often make the difference between a simple jaunt and wanting to lie down and give up – and that's for a few hours, not a forty-day trip! We have all had times when, like Elijah, our mission seems too much for us to bear or when it seems like we have failed – a challenging project in school or work, a faltering relationship, a struggle with illness, a loss of a loved one, and many more. That's why we should be so grateful to have a God who will always give us the nourishment to go that last mile. As with the Israelites in the Sinai desert, with Jesus in the wilderness, and here with Elijah on his journey to Mount Horeb, He provides no matter our complaints, our laziness, and our pessimism - not just food but a burst of inspiration, a chance encounter, an unexpected act of kindness. So whenever you feel trapped, helpless, beaten: Get up and eat! Nourish yourself with his words, with his gifts, and know that whatever challenges you face, God will give you the strength to live out his plan for you.

Thurs, Aug. 16, Psalm 34:1-8, Kathy Jo Uslabar Cry out to the Lord. He will hear your prayers and answer. The Lord hears our cries. He answers our prayers. Small prayers, big prayers, prayers for self or others. Cry out to the Lord! The Lord is good. I prayed for my soulmate and God delivered. I prayed whether he was the one; he was. I pray for guidance and hear just the right message. The Lord blesses us with goodness and salvation. Cry out to the Lord!

Fri., Aug. 17, Ephesians 4:25-5:2 Written on the eve of my sabbatical and read upon my return, for me, this devotion marks a season of absence from the community. While there are times that we are physically away from our brothers and sisters in Christ, we never take a sabbatical from our commitment to one another. Paul puts it this way, *"for we are members of one another."* Using words that build up rather than tear down, may we actively seek out ways to *"live in love, as Christ loved us."*

Sat, Aug 18, John 6:35, 41-51, Kathy Jo Uslabar I can imagine going out to dinner with my family: parents, grandparents, and brother, as a child and hearing my grandfather say, "Don't fill up on the bread!" There was a large meal coming and you were meant to eat all of it. To fill up on the bread was wasteful. As I read this passage though, I think to myself, "Be sure you fill up on the bread!" Christ, the bread of life is the part of my life that is not to be wasted. He is the path to a meaningful life. The manna: my career, possessions, even family and friends, will not provide life everlasting. God leads us to faith in Christ Jesus. He alone is the bread of life.

*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>