

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. 5, 2018 At-A-Glance

Sunday, Aug. 5

8:30 & 10 a.m.

9 a.m.

11 a.m.

7 p.m.

Monday

3:30 p.m.

5 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

Tuesday

6:30 a.m.

1 p.m.

1 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

7 p.m.

Wednesday

10:30 a.m.

12:15 p.m.

1 p.m.

4:30 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

Thursday

12:30 p.m.

Friday

6:30 a.m.

Sunday, Aug. 12

8:30 & 10 a.m.

9 a.m.

10 a.m.

DS = Downtown Site NS = North Site

Summer Chamber Music at Worship, DS

Worship, DS Sanctuary

Worship, NS Sanctuary

Summer Chamber Music Recital/Reception to Follow
DS Sanctuary/Gathering Area

Concert Benefiting The Center for Suicide Awareness,
Seeds of Grace Learning Garden

VBS Week, 9 a.m.-Noon, NS

Wednesday Worship Rehearsal, NS Sanctuary

Young Adult Fellowship, NS Gathering Area & Youth Room

Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

VBS Week, 9 a.m.-Noon, NS

Men's Ministry, NS Library

FVLH Visit (All Ages), Fox Valley Lutheran Homes

Judith Circle, DS 114

MSYG (Grades 6-8) Jumpin' with Jesus, Xtreme Air

Worship & Music Ministry Team, DS Lounge

VBS Week, 9 a.m.-Noon, NS

Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 221

Lunchtime Organ Recital, DS Sanctuary

Miriam Circle, DS Library

Worship Rehearsal, NS Sanctuary

Intern-led Wednesday Worship, NS Sanctuary

reFUEL (Grades 7-12+), NS

OFFICE CLOSED-STAFF RETREAT

VBS Week, 9 a.m.-Noon, NS

High School (Grades 9-12+) Lunch with Interns,

Calumet St. Buffalo Wild Wings

OFFICE CLOSED-STAFF RETREAT

Men's Ministry, NS Library

Worship, DS Sanctuary

Worship, NS Sanctuary

Ukulele Combo Rehearsal, NS Sanctuary



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.

(Closed Thursday & Friday, Aug. 9 & 10)

North Site

Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

Wednesday Worship: 6:15 p.m.

Announcements

Week of Aug. 5, 2018

Love Jesus. Live your call.

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

Sunday at FELC

Day on the Mission Field

Aug. 9 is sponsored in honor of Sara Huhmann's birthday.

Thank You Heidi

Thank you to Heidi Schreiner, FELC's Youth and Summer Ministries Coordinator, for providing the message at the Downtown Site this morning.

Generosity Abounds!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the noisy offering at the Downtown Site last Sunday. An impressive amount was raised in support of the nonprofit Loaves and Fishes. After today's noisy offering at the North Site, the total will be tallied and announced.

Coffee Project Sunday

First English will be selling Fairly Traded Coffee, Tea and Hot Cocoa today in the Gathering Area. The simple pleasure of a cup of coffee can be a vital source of income for thousands of small farmers and their families in some of the poorest countries in the world. Please consider supporting this worthy cause!



Didn't Get Enough Music This Weekend? FELC Offers Two More Opportunities!

- **Chamber Music This Morning:** Thank you to the Summer Chamber Music Musicians for gracing us with their music today at the Downtown Site. They will also share their gifts in a recital this morning at 11:15 a.m. in the Downtown Site Sanctuary, with a reception to follow in the Gathering Area. All are welcome to come and enjoy! Sponsored by The Arthur Krempin School of Music & Art.
- **Benefit Concert This Evening:** The Summer Interns are hosting a concert to benefit The Center for Suicide Awareness tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Downtown Site *Seeds of Grace* Learning Garden. There will be speakers from the Center, and musical performances by several interns as well as special musical guests. Please plan to attend!

Looking Ahead FELC Staff Retreat

The FELC Staff will be attending the Global Leadership Summit being held on Aug. 9 and 10 at Pathways Church in Appleton. This leadership and education summit is simulcast across the country and led by a world-class faculty. We are thankful for a grant which enabled attendance. Due to this event, the church office will be closed on Aug. 9 and 10.

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 and fill out the short form. Thank you!

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.

Vacation Bible School Begins Tomorrow!

Creation Celebration Vacation Bible School begins tomorrow! Get ready for a fun week full of songs, arts and crafts, fun games and high-energy activities, and, of course, great Bible study. Kids age 3 through grade 6 are encouraged to join us Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. - noon for our excellent final week of elementary summer programming. Sign up at www.felc.com/forms or just come to the North Site before 9 a.m. tomorrow to register.



Start with "Hello"

The Conversation Game about Living and Dying and What Matters Most
You are invited to play the "Hello" game as we explore how meaningful (and surprisingly joyful) conversations about what matters most can be. Laugh, connect with people, and take an opportunity to express your feelings and decisions - in a fun way! You are welcome to bring an appetizer to pass.

Monday, Aug. 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church

325 E Franklin St, Appleton
Please RSVP to Ellen at (920) 997-8412 or ellen.koski@mosaicfamilyhealth.org.

Soup, Salad and Song

Join Pastor Mary and her family at their home for their annual concert and buffet, *Soup, Salad, and Song*. Tickets can be purchased in the Church Office for \$30. 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 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 small group leader to walk with a class that is finishing their final year in the program and possibly a 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!



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 lcfseman@charter.net or Brenda Smongeski at (920)733-2303 or bsmongeski@felc.com. The job description can be found at www.felc.com/employment.

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!

Lunchtime Organ Recital At FELC This Wednesday

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. Note: This week's recital is at FELC Downtown Site.

• **Aug. 8: Jared Stellmacher**
First English Lutheran Church

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 Landremans Restaurant in Kaukauna. Please sign up in the Gathering Area if you would like to participate in this fun activity.



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

Prayers of Comfort Families of:

- Owen "Butch" Hughes
- Roy Schmidt
- Rick Jones

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 Child Care Center

Contact: Karen VanRyzin
(920)788-8740; childcarecommunity@att.net

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

Aug. 5, 2018

From the Desk of Summer Intern Abbey DesRochers

Hello! My name is Abbey DesRochers and I am the music intern this summer. Some highlights about my experience have been leading Wednesday Night Worship, teaching music lessons, and building strong relationships. These experiences have helped me grow as an individual and in my faith. Thank you to the First English community for being so supportive of the intern program.

This summer may be flying by, but there are still exciting events coming up that you won't want to miss! The Benefit Concert supporting The Center for Suicide Awareness will be held at the Downtown Site *Seeds of Grace* Learning Garden from 7-8:30 p.m. on Aug. 5. This will be an event full of inspiring speakers and music that will promote a sense of togetherness within the community. Hope to see you there!

- Abbey DesRochers

Benefit Concert Tonight

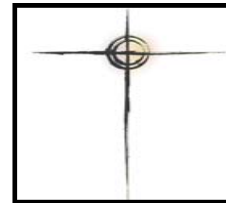
Tonight the Summer Intern Ministry is holding its annual benefit concert. This year, the concert is benefiting The Center for Suicide Awareness. The concert will be taking place tonight, Aug. 5, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the *Seeds of Grace* Learning Garden on the corner of Durkee and North streets. A free will offering will be collected and refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Vacation Bible School



Creation Celebration Vacation Bible School begins tomorrow, Aug. 6! Get ready for a fun week full of songs, arts and crafts, fun games and high-energy activities, and, of course, great Bible study. Kids age 3 through grade 6 are encouraged to join us Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. - noon for our excellent final week of elementary summer programming.

Students grades 9-12 are welcome to join us for reFUEL following the Intern-led Worship services on Wednesday nights at the North Site.



Youth News

Aug. 5, 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. We invite students grades 6-8 to join summer interns Reilly and Jack at Xtreme Air in Appleton on Aug. 7 at 3:30 p.m. for *Jumpin' With Jesus*. This exciting event costs \$16 to attend. This price includes the fee for socks. We can't wait to see you then!

Noah's Ark Trip

Middle and high schoolers are invited to join us next week for this fun in the sun bus trip to Noah's Ark water park! We'll leave at 8 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 13. The trip costs \$30, which covers transportation, a park ticket, and a hot dog lunch. Sign up at www.felc.com/summer.



Wednesday Night Worship

Join the Summer Interns each Wednesday evening through Aug. 15 for Wednesday Worship at 6:15 p.m. at the North Site. This intern-led, Spirit-filled service of music, message and communion is a great alternative or addition to Sunday. We look forward to you joining us for our last couple weeks of intern-led worship services. The summer has been a blessing thus far, and we're very excited to continue this great worship series.

Coffee and Convo

Coffee and Convo will not be meeting this week due to needing all intern hands on deck for Vacation Bible School. Summer interns Reilly and Jack will host the last Coffee and Convo of the summer next week, on Aug. 14, so please stop by the College Ave. Copper Rock to enjoy good coffee and great conversations.

BWW

Students grades 9-12 are encouraged to join summer interns Reilly and Jack for a summer ministry favorite. Come to lunch at the Appleton east Buffalo Wild Wings at an updated time this Thursday, Aug. 9, from 12:30-2 p.m.



“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!

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.)

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.*

God’s work. Our hands.

2018 T-Shirt Order Form

Maybe you have never ordered one, maybe the one you own is in need of a replacement, maybe you have missed past t-shirt order deadlines. But now is the time to order a t-shirt for the 2018 God’s work. Our hands. Sunday that is taking place on Sept. 9, 2018.

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

DEADLINE FOR T-SHIRT ORDER: SUNDAY, AUG. 12

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: AUG. 12

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

FELC DS Engage Page: Pentecost 11, August 5, 2018

John 6:24-35 *So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which I come down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." 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.*

Sun, Aug. 5: Family Project: Bake some bread! Whether using store bought dough or your own, pay attention to the process of making bread. What does it need to rise? What do we need to grow in our faith? The warmth of community, the yeast of the Holy Spirit, the sweet food of scripture? Come up with as many analogies as you can. Jesus, the Bread of Life, is the one essential. As you eat your bread, remember that Jesus feeds us true love and forgiveness.

Mon, Aug. 6: By tracing the word "work" through this passage, we can see that Jesus and the crowds are speaking on different levels. Jesus teaches them not to work for an earthly bread that perishes, but to receive the work that God has done in the gift of believing in Jesus. The crowd wants to make it about acts that they can perform to see miraculous signs. Jesus comes with the free gift of eternal life.

Tues, Aug. 7: John speaks even through subtle changes in verb tenses. He says, *"it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven."* God's provision was not dependent on the person of Moses –a prophet long dead. God provided in the past, and continues to provide in the present through the bread from heaven, Jesus Christ.

Wed., Aug. 8, 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. 9, 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. 10, 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 11, 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-Downtown-Site-Engage-Page>

FELC NS Engage Page: Pentecost 10, August 5, 2018

John 6:1-21 *After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up & saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has 5 barley loaves and 2 fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about 5 thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the 5 barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled 12 baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, & started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, & Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about 3 or 4 miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.*

Sun, Aug. 5: Family Project: Most sandwich breads have about 22 slices per loaf. For the 5000 sandwiches necessary for this crowd we'd need 455 loaves of bread. Do a grocery store run to find out how much that would cost today. Praise God for miraculous provision.

Mon, Aug. 6: Jesus asks the disciples to *"Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."* Jesus was never wasteful. And the attitude that he has toward bread is also the attitude he has toward people. He asks his disciples to go out searching for anyone the world overlooks –the leftovers, –so that no one may be lost.

Tues, Aug. 7: Why are these disciples always going out in storms? Shouldn't they be able to read the weather better since some of them made a living by the sea? It's actually just like us. No matter how we prepare, we can be caught unaware by the storms of life. Praise God that Jesus comes to us in the midst of all our storms.

Wed., Aug. 8, 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. 9, 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. 10, 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 11, 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. Most 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_North_Site_Engage_Page