

## 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 (off of the Gathering Area) and the North Site Nursery (across from the restrooms) are open for family use during all worship services. Please ask an usher if you need assistance. At the North Site, the child-friendly space just inside the Sanctuary doors is supervised by staff and available to children during worship services.

### 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 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).

### 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 Dec. 2, 2018 At-A-Glance

### Sunday, Dec. 2

8:50 a.m. Angelus Rehearsal, DS Choir Room  
9:15/9:25 a.m. Children's Learning Time, DS/NS  
9:15 a.m. Adult Learning Time, DS Lounge  
9:30 a.m. Women's Study Group, NS Library  
9:30 a.m. Middle School Music Class, NS Sanctuary

### Monday

9 a.m. Quilters, DS Fellowship Hall  
6:30 p.m. Griefshare, DS Lounge  
6:30 p.m. Board Game Guild Life Group, NS Library  
8:15 p.m. Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

### Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Men's Ministry, NS Library  
1 p.m. Judith Circle, DS 114  
8 p.m. ATC Basketball, NS Activity Center

### Wednesday

10:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 110  
Noon Noon Hour Philosophers, DS Fellowship Hall  
1 p.m. Intern Enrichment Ministry Team, DS Lounge  
4:45 p.m. Congregational Advent Dinner, DS Fellowship Hall  
5:45 p.m. Angelus & Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room  
6:15 p.m. Advent Vespers Service, DS Sanctuary  
7 p.m. Confirmation General Session All Grades, DS  
7 p.m. Kid's Life, DS 014  
7 p.m. refuel (grades 10-12), DS Youth Room  
7:15 p.m. Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room

### Thursday

6 a.m. Early Risers Women's Study, DS Lounge

### Friday

6:30 a.m. Men's Ministry, NS Library  
**Sunday, Dec. 9**  
8:50 a.m. Cherub/Angelus Rehearsal, DS 220/DS Choir Room  
9:15/9:25 a.m. Children's Learning Time, DS/NS  
9:15 a.m. Adult Learning Time, DS Lounge  
9:30 a.m. Women's Study Group, NS Library  
9:30 a.m. Ukulele Combo Rehearsal, NS Sanctuary

DS = Downtown Site    NS = North Site

## Casserole Ministry

The Casserole Ministry cooks are committed to preparing great, homemade casseroles to feed the body which can sometimes be as important as feeding the spirit. If you know someone recovering from an illness or surgery, birth of a child, bereavement or other need, please stop by the Downtown Site Office and pick up a casserole to take to them. Questions? Contact Jeanne Gronholm at [jgronholm@felc.com](mailto:jgronholm@felc.com) or 733-2303.



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.

# Love Jesus. Live your call.

*First English is committed to be a welcoming, inclusive congregation.*

## Sunday at FELC

### Altar Flowers

The Downtown Site Altar Flowers are provided by Rex and Nila Hahn in honor of their grandchildren.

The North Site Altar Flowers are provided by Rudi and Carmen Pakendorf in honor of their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Nov. 30.

## Special Thanks

We thank The Reverend Dr. Linda Morgan-Clement for being with us at the Downtown Site today. She has served many years as an ordained Presbyterian pastor. Currently, she is the first Julie Esch Hurvis Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life at Lawrence University. Designed to further enhance the transformative experience a Lawrence education provides, this position is dedicated to reinforcing a welcoming and supportive community environment for spiritual and religious exploration and expression of all faiths, beliefs and religious traditions.

## Downtown Site Adult Learning Time

Join Pastor Bob Herder in the Downtown Site Lounge at 9:15 a.m. this morning as he leads the study, *The Purpose of Christmas* by Rick Warren. This three week video-based study touchingly addresses why Jesus was born. Come any Sunday as each week can be approached independently.

Announcements  
Week of Dec. 2, 2018

## Alternative Gift Fair

Today, Dec. 2 (Downtown Site);  
Dec. 9 (North Site)

FELC is holding its 15<sup>th</sup> annual Alternative Gift Fair. In addition to supporting projects FELC is involved with, we work with ELCA Good Gifts and Alternative Gifts International (AGI) to offer "Gifts Inspiring Change" to help people in crisis around the world. Visit the table in the Gathering Area at the Downtown Site today, and the North Site next Sunday to learn more and to shop!

## Coffee and Chocolate Projects

When we support Fair Trade projects, we help the small farmers who benefit from fair prices, allowing them to educate their children, pay for healthcare and make improvements to their communities. We are selling Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate and Chocolate bars today in the Gathering Area. Please consider supporting this important ministry.

## Last Day to Sign Up for Belling Ringing

Please visit the Salvation Army Bell Ringing sign up table in the Gathering Area this morning. Let's have a strong showing of love from our congregation by filling all remaining slots! Tomorrow all open slots will be returned the salvation army bell ringing website. You can still sign up by going to [www.registertoring.com](http://www.registertoring.com).

## Sunday at FELC

### Advent Devotional/Engage Page

Help yourself to a FELC Advent Devotional, available in the Gathering Area (or online at [www.felc.com](http://www.felc.com)) and written by members of First English! Thank you to all who submitted devotions for the booklet. For all Engage Page readers, we will use this devotional during Advent. Look for the return of the Engage Page insert on Sunday, Dec. 30.

### Operation Christmas

FELC is helping bring a Christmas wrapped in Christ's love to Lutheran affiliated and other local non-profits through *Operation Christmas*. Our focus this year is five local organizations that serve others: Lutheran Social Services, Leaven, Crossways Camping Ministries, COTS and Riverview Gardens. Please select ornaments from the *Operation Christmas* tree in the Gathering Areas. Each ornament identifies items to help fulfill wishes and needs for these organizations and the people they serve. Place unwrapped gifts under the tree by Tuesday, Dec. 11. Gift cards should be brought to the Church Office, or clearly marked and placed in the offering plate. Help FELC bring the compassion of Christ to others through *Operation Christmas*.

### FELC Employment Opportunity: New Member Host

FELC is seeking to hire a New Member Host. This part-time role will plan, schedule and coordinate the semi-annual new member classes, activities and brunch, in addition to contacting visitors.

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. Have questions? Call Pastor Mary in the Church Office (733-2303).

## Looking Ahead

### Advent Vespers

#### Wednesday, Dec. 5 at the Downtown Site

- 4:45 p.m.: Enjoy fellowship, Mary's chicken and arts and crafts for the children in Fellowship Hall.
- 6:15 p.m.: The choirs will provide lovely music as we read *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski. It is a true story that shows how one small act of Christmas kindness can change a life.

### Save the Date: Honey Sale

Don't forget to bring your wallet or check book to church Sunday, Dec. 9 and 16 for the annual Honey Sale! Cost is \$12/jar and all of the proceeds will go toward FELC Youth attending the mission trip to North Carolina this summer. Thank you!

### Submit "Can't Serve" Dates for Worship Volunteering

A worship schedule is being created for Jan. 1 - Mar. 31. To assist with scheduling, please review your personal calendars and record within MSP any dates you are unavailable to serve during that time period. The deadline to record unavailable dates is Sunday, Dec. 9. If you need any assistance with updating your "can't serve" dates, please contact Kathy Larson ([klarson@felc.com](mailto:klarson@felc.com) or 733-2303). Thank you.

### VSA Choir Christmas Concert

Tuesday Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m.  
Downtown Site Sanctuary

The VSA Choir has members with and without disabilities and will present beautiful songs of the season. Several FELC members sing in the choir. A special thanks to First English for generously providing space for practices and concerts. Please attend this awesome concert and bring friends! If you have any questions please contact Nancy Strebe (851-0345).

## Noon Hour Philosophers, Fall, 2018

The Noon Hour Philosophers will meet once more for the fall session and will resume in January. Watch future bulletins for the winter/spring schedule. If you have questions please contact Mary Poulson at [mmaryjep@att.net](mailto:mmaryjep@att.net) or (920)734-8137.

- Dec. 5: Living a Philosophical Life  
Father Patrick Twomey, Episcopal Priest

### GriefShare

GriefShare is a nation-wide ministry that helps people deal with the death of a loved one. This video series includes discussion time allowing people to share their own experiences with grief. You are welcome to come at any time in the curriculum. For more information please connect with Pastor Mary. Sessions are Monday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. in Downtown Site Room 221.

### Christmas Concerts on Wisconsin Public Television (The Wisconsin Channel)

#### Christmas at St. Olaf - *Ris'n with Healing in His Wings*

- Friday, Dec. 7 at 9 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 8 at midnight and 4 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 13 at 4 a.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 15 at midnight

#### Christmas at Concordia - *Gather Us in, O Child of Peace*

- Sunday, Dec. 9 at 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 4 a.m.

#### Christmas in Christ Chapel (Gustavus Adolphus) - *Visions of Divine Mystery*

- Sunday, Dec. 23 at 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 26 at 4 a.m.

Many colleges offer live streaming of their concerts too. Visit their websites for more information.

## 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
- Angel Manos
- Jacob Schwab
- Justin Schwab
- Laurie Niles
- Debra Boushley
- David Heindel
- Doug Hansen
- Amy Ponomarev
- Moore Peregrine
- Je'Ann Johnson
- Paul Henrikson
- Juanita Gauerke
- Robb Schaefer
- Kim Norland
- Carol Peterson
- Bev Hoff
- Cindy Schneider
- Alex VanMaren
- Rhona Anton
- Malin Conlon
- Mitzi Hansen
- Linda Codd
- Debra Nuthals
- Linda Codd
- Helen Juedes

### Prayers of Comfort Families of:

- Don Albrecht
- Norma Gehring
- Sande Krizek
- Martin Much
- Alice Olson
- Tom Roy
- Todd Schink
- Linda Berg

### Prayers for Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- Stephanie Olson

### Prayers for Those in the Military

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

### This Week's Community Care Focus

- Habitat for Humanity  
[jodii@fchabitat.org](mailto:jodii@fchabitat.org); (920)967-8882



# High School Youth News

Grades 9-12

Dec. 2, 2018



For Grades 10-12  
Wednesday nights  
DS Youth Room  
7-8 p.m.

12/5: Special **refuel** time  
7:15-8pm following  
Advent Vespers (see details on the front of this youth insert)

12/12: OFF SITE **refuel** at Walmart on Calumet St. for Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell-Ringing. Meet at the grocery entrance and dress warm!



12/19: Christmas Party!  
More details next week!

12/26: NO **refuel**

"Feelings are not necessarily *evidence* of the **presence** of God. If you always felt God, *you wouldn't need faith.*"  
-Pastor Craig Groeschel



## High School Mission Trip Blue Ridge Mountains, NC

Upcoming important dates for Mission Trip participants:

Sunday, Dec. 9: Honey & Scrip Sale both sites

Sunday, Dec. 16: Honey Sale & Scrip Card Distribution both sites

**Sign up to volunteer at [www.felc.com/highschool](http://www.felc.com/highschool).**

## Searching for youth musicians - vocal or instrumental



Want a unique opportunity to gain service/volunteer hours? Consider singing or playing an instrument during a church service at either site. Contact Heidi if you're interested in serving in this way. ([hschreiner@felc.com](mailto:hschreiner@felc.com))

Social Media: Facebook: FELC YOUTH Instagram: felc.youth

Dec. 2, 2018



Information for FELC Youth and Families  
Grades K-12

## Nothing's Better Than Spending Christmas (and Advent) With Family

As we enter the season of Advent, there are so many wonderful ways our faith family comes together to celebrate the hope and the light of the birth of Jesus. Join us for as many events as you can!

- ◆ Come down and sing with us for the Intergenerational Congregational Christmas Program during Learning Time. Presentations are Dec. 16.
- ◆ Advent Vespers chicken dinner, crafts, holiday story and songs on Dec. 5 at the Downtown Site. Dinner begins at 4:45 p.m.; service is at 6:15 p.m.
- ◆ Advent Soup Dinner and Worship on Dec. 12 at the Downtown Site. Dinner begins at 4:45 p.m., worship follows at 6:15 p.m.



### 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



### Make As Many As You Can

During December we are joyfully getting our Christmas programs put together! During Learning Time at both sites on Dec. 2 & 9 we will be spending the majority of the hour practicing our songs and speaking parts. On Dec. 16 at 8:15 a.m. the Downtown Site will be doing its final rehearsal prior to the program at the 9:15 a.m. worship. At the North Site the final rehearsal will be during Learning Time on Dec. 16 with the program at the 10:30 a.m. service. We know that this time of year is packed with seasonal commitments but try to make it to as many Sunday practices as possible. The amazing story of Jesus' birth is a celebration for everyone but especially wonderful when shared in community.



### PROGRAM REHEARSALS

### Help Your Student Help Animals



Don't forget to help your student meet their giving goal for the Fox Valley Humane Association. We will be collecting donations on Sunday mornings during the large group assembly at the beginning of Learning Time. Kids at both sites were excited to choose this great organization that helps unwanted pets find new homes. Support their work to help these sweet animals get a second chance.

### Choir Corner

Angelus sings Dec. 5 at 6:15 p.m. for Advent Vespers and again on Dec. 9 at 8 a.m. Cherub sings Dec. 9 at 9:15 a.m. New singers are always welcome to join! Angelus Choir (grades 3-6) practices on Sunday mornings at the Downtown Site at 8:50 a.m., in the Choir Room. Cherub Choir (Grades K-2) will not rehearse today, but will resume next Sunday at 8:50 a.m. in Downtown Site Room 220.



## Confirmation and Middle School Scoop




### Mixing It Up In December



In December we work on building community which means our regular schedule gets mixed up.

- **Dec. 5 Advent Vespers - Family Attendance Night.** There are no standard classes. Instead, the Advent Service with holiday story and songs are shared as a congregation from 6:15-7:15 p.m. A freewill offering chicken dinner and games begin at 4:45 p.m. for those that would like to attend. The service is considered part of Confirmation curriculum. Please make attending a priority.
- **Dec. 12 - Confirmation Service Night.** If your student's small group is serving at a different location than First English you should have received a consent form via email with specific information. Contact your small group leader with additional questions.

### Keep An Eye On These Dates

- | **Dec. 5-Advent Vespers Family Attendance Night**
- | Worship is from 6:15-7:15 p.m.,
- | Chicken dinner & games 4:45-6:15 p.m., DS
- | *Worship is considered a Confirmation class to be attended as family*
- | **Dec 12-Advent Soup Dinner & Worship**
- | 4:45 p.m. dinner, 6:15 p.m.
- | **worship, DS CONFIRMATION SERVICE NIGHT**
- |  **Dec. 26-No class.**
- | Christmas break.



6<sup>th</sup> Grade Families - Save the date for the *Welcome to Confirmation Meeting* on Jan. 9, 7-8 p.m. in the Downtown Site Fellowship Hall.

### Great Family Assignment Ideas

- The first family assignment due date is Jan. 2. Here are some ideas to help.
- > **Make the Christmas program a family affair!** Join rehearsals during Learning Time at either site.
- > **Be a North Site coffee host family.** Contact Kathy Larson at [klarson@felc.com](mailto:klarson@felc.com) for info.
- > **Contribute a soup or help with the Advent soup dinner on Dec. 12.** Contact Kathy for info.
- > **Light the Advent wreath during church.** Sign-up in the Gathering Areas.
- > **Ring the bells for Salvation Army.** Sign-Up in the Gathering Areas.



*Have questions or want to volunteer?*

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





Hosting has just four requirements:

- Have a heart for people,
- Open up a place to meet,
- Serve a snack, and
- Turn on a DVD. It's that simple.

- The *Fearless Faith* study series begins the week of Jan. 20.
- Groups meet weekly for six weeks.
- Host training and materials will be provided.
- Questions? Contact Jeanne at [jgronholm@felc.com](mailto:jgronholm@felc.com) or Pastor Mary at [mbauer@felc.com](mailto:mbauer@felc.com).

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**Sign me up as a Small Group Host!**

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

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

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

Meeting Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle any types of groups you would like to host:

- |                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Men                  | • Couples                     |
| • Women                | • Singles                     |
| • No gender preference | • Mixed (couples and singles) |

Circle the ages you would like to host:

- |       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| • 20s | • 60s        |
| • 30s | • 70s plus   |
| • 40s | • Mixed ages |
| • 50s |              |

## Poinsettia/Greenery Order Form

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

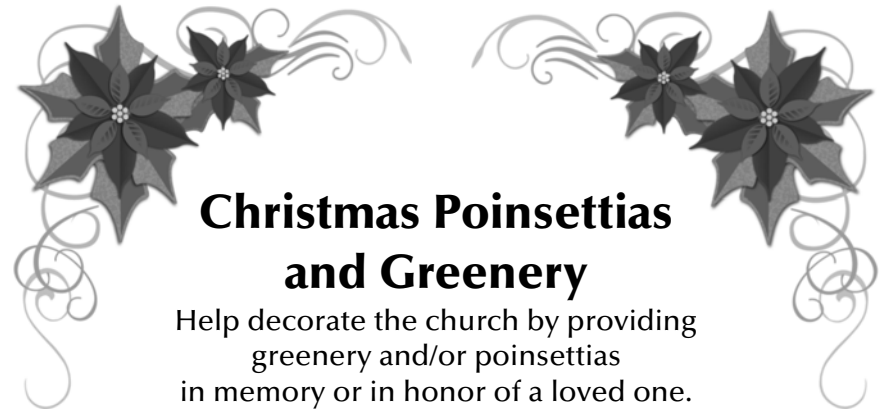
or

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

\$12 x \_\_\_\_\_ (Poinsettias)      \$12 x \_\_\_\_\_ (Greenery Items)

Amount due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please feel free to take your poinsettias home  
after the Christmas Day service.*



### Christmas Poinsettias and Greenery

Help decorate the church by providing  
greenery and/or poinsettias  
in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Return the order form above with your payment of \$12  
for each plant or greenery item ordered  
to the offering plate or the Church Office.

Payments may be made by check or online at [www.felc.com](http://www.felc.com)  
and each will be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletin.

The deadline to order is Monday, Dec. 17.



As Christmas nears and the year comes to a close, please receive this THANK YOU for your financial support of the ministries of your church.

Your financial giving and generosity are signs that God is moving and at work among us.

As you consider your year-end giving, please remember First English Lutheran Church. Your generosity will be deeply appreciated. Together we will finish the year in a strong fashion and enter next year with greater momentum.

This year, the Council and Staff would like you to know what is planned as revenue exceeds expenses. The abundance will be given to our benevolences, particularly the greater churchwide body. Our gifts support the ministries of ELCA's Hunger Appeal and Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, East Central Synod of Wisconsin, missionary Stephanie Olson, and more.

You may also be interested in giving appreciated stocks or other assets. This is a great way to give while receiving additional tax benefits. If you have questions about this type of giving, please contact Church Administrator Brenda Smongeski at (920)733-2303.

May this Christmas provide you with an experience of the beauty and mystery of God's gift of Jesus Christ to us and to the world. Let us together keep on bringing this Good News to as many people as we can.

imagine  
THE IMPACT

2019  
STEWARDSHIP  
APPEAL

THANK YOU, if you've turned in your completed *Statement of Intent* card for 2019!

If you're somewhat behind schedule, please return your card as soon as you can. With over 325 cards returned, First English is nearing its goal of 380 and the Challenge Gift of \$5,000.

Of the 325 households, 78 of them are new, in that they completed a *Statement of Intent* card for 2019, but had not done so for 2018. Thank you. Their combined pledge totals over \$96,000.

Other good news is that 146 *Statement of Intent* cards show an increase in giving for 2019, on an average of \$450 per household. Thank you!

Together, we look to embrace these three key initiatives in 2019:

- Inspiring Worship
- Neighbor Network
- Ministry Capability

We can do this by reaching our goal of \$100,000 in increased offerings for next year.