

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; 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 Dec. 30, 2018 At-A-Glance

Sunday, Dec. 30

8, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m. Worship, DS Sanctuary
9 a.m. Worship, NS Sanctuary

Monday

8:15 p.m.

Tuesday

Wednesday

10:30 a.m.

1 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

7 p.m.

7 p.m.

7 p.m.

8 p.m.

Thursday

6 a.m.

Friday

6:30 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 6

8, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.

8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

8:50 a.m.

9:15/9:25 a.m.

9:15 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

DS = Downtown Site NS = North Site

Worship, DS Sanctuary

Worship, NS Sanctuary

Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

New Year's Day; Church Office Closed

Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 110

Intern Enrichment Ministry Team, DS Lounge

Handbell Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room

Wednesday Worship, DS Sanctuary

Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room & Sanctuary

Confirmation General Session All Grades, DS

Kid's Life, DS 014

refuel (grades 10-12), DS Youth Room

9th Grade Second Semester Meeting for Students & Parents,

DS Fellowship Hall

Early Risers Women's Study, DS Lounge

Men's Ministry, NS Library

Worship, DS Sanctuary

Worship, NS Sanctuary

Cherub/Angelus Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room

Children's Learning Time, DS/NS

Adult Learning Time, DS Lounge

Women's Study Group, NS Library

Middle School Music Class, NS Sanctuary



First English Lutheran Church

www.felc.com 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 Closed Tuesday, Jan. 1)

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 Jean Burmeister in memory of Don Burmeister.

Looking Ahead

Summer Intern Application Deadline is Tomorrow

The 2019 Summer Intern applications are open and available online at www.felc.com/forms. If you know of anyone who is at least one year out of high school between the ages of 19-25 and wants to grow in Christian leadership skills, serve the community, and grow in faith, this is the perfect opportunity. This is a paid 12-week internship beginning in late May and ending in mid-August. Applications must be received by Dec. 31. Applicants can email their materials to Heidi Schreiner at hschreiner@felc.com, or mail or bring to the Church Office (326 E. North St., Appleton, WI 54911). Please contact Heidi with any questions.



Announcements

Week of Dec. 30, 2018

Great Ideas for Year-End Generosity

As you plan year-end giving, consider these ideas: 1) **Appreciated stock** makes an excellent gift because long-term gains are not taxed, and the gift is generally deductible from income tax. 2) **IRA giving**: If you're over 70½, give from your IRA without having to pay income tax on the contribution. This can help satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution. Please consult with your financial adviser before you take action. 3) **Checks or online contributions** are easy and may be eligible for a federal tax deduction.

Consistent with the philosophy that current members support current needs, annual pledge or gift income provides most of the revenue for the annual budget. First English invites all members to make regular commitments to the church by pledging each year, allowing the church to plan and manage most effectively. You are invited to consider taking steps toward the Biblical tithe and/or to begin a regular 'generosity practice' by setting up automated giving from your bank account. See Brenda Smongeski in the Church Office if you have any questions or call (920)733-2303.

Crochet Thread Needed

The Monday morning quilters greatly appreciate donations of crochet thread (any color/amount) to use to tie quilts. Please leave it on the gifts table in the Downtown Site Gathering Area. Thank you.

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. It would be very much appreciated!

Small Groups Signup Begins Next Sunday

We are almost to Jan. 20 and the launch of our small group ministry. Participation signup will begin next Sunday, Jan. 6. If you have made a last minute decision to become a HOST, just email Pastor Mary or put a note in the offering basket, and she will add your name.



The Parables of Jesus in Luke

Starting Jan. 6, join us Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Downtown Site Lounge as we take a look at the parables in Luke from a Middle Eastern cultural view. With short teaching videos by Dr. Kenneth E. Bailey, this study will inform participants about the culture in which the parables were told. Dr. Bailey spent 40 years teaching New Testament in seminaries and research institutes in Egypt, Lebanon, Jerusalem and Cyprus, giving him interesting and valuable insights into these beloved parables of Jesus.

Fair Trade Coffee Project Sunday

Are you into New Years resolutions? Why not let one of them be to buy fairly traded coffee from the Coffee project. This would be a resolution from which many would benefit. The project enables small-scale coffee farmers to receive a fair price for their coffee and make improvements in their communities. First English has been a faithful supporter of the Coffee Project for many years; we were among the original supporters of this project. This still is *Good Coffee for a Good Cause*. Next Sunday, Jan. 6, will be our next sale day. Please visit the Gathering Area and consider supporting this worthy cause.

Prepay for 2019

Please know if you would like to prepay your 2019 contributions in 2018, the Church Office will be open tomorrow, Dec. 31, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Thank you.

Baptismal Workshop Set for Jan. 22

The next Baptismal Workshop is at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 22, in the Downtown Site Lounge. Please RSVP by calling the Church Office and indicating if child care is needed. God comes to us through our baptism. Meet others in your church family as together we explore the meaning and practice of baptism.

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? Please contact Jeanne Gronholm at jgronholm@felc.com or 733-2303.



Cancellations

If you are wondering about cancellations, please check the FELC website (www.felc.com) under the Facebook section, lower right hand margin on the FELC homepage. The church calendar will also be updated. In all instances, use your best judgment when deciding whether or not to drive to church for a scheduled worship, class or activity.



Noon Hour Philosophers 2019

The Noon Hour Philosophers will resume meeting in 2019 on Jan. 9. They meet for an hour at noon in the Downtown Site Fellowship Hall each Wednesday.

If you have questions, contact Mary Poulson at mmaryjep@att.net or (920)734-8137.

- **Jan. 9: Happiness, What are My Options?**
S. Evan Kreider, Professor of Philosophy
UW Oshkosh - Fox Valley Campus
- **Jan. 16: We Need to Change the Dynamics of the Health Care Market in the Fox Valley**
Merton D. Finkler, John R. Kimberly
Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Economics
- **Jan. 23: Thorton Wilder, An American Classic**
Rev. Dr. Stephen Savides, Senior Pastor
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Appleton
- **Jan. 30: Timefulness: How Thinking Like a Geologist Can Save the World**
Marcia Bjornerud, Professor of Geosciences
and Environmental Studies

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are facing a crisis or going through tough times. The help you'll receive is free and confidential. To learn how you, a friend, neighbor, co-worker or relative can receive care, talk to a pastor.

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
- 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
- Debra Nuthals
- Mitzi Hansen
- Syllas Garcia
- Caryl Bates
- Lloyd Cohen
- Stacey Prodoehl
- Kathleen Urban
- Hellen Opsahl

Prayers of Comfort Families of:

- Jane Moe
- Barbara Winkler

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

- Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice
nicole.lane@hcr-manorcare.com
(920)336-6455 or toll free at 1-866-631-3149




High School
Youth News

Grades 9-12 Dec. 30, 2018



"For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.
And to make an end is to make a beginning." -T.S. Eliot




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

1/2 Starting the year fresh
Nadia Bolz Weber Video

1/9 Your life in Jelly Beans
activity-prepping for special 9th grade refuel night

1/16 Worry/Stress activity-
prepping for special 9th grade refuel night



**High School Mission Trip
Blue Ridge Mountains, NC**


Next Fundraiser:
Jan. 13: Scrip Sale
Jan 20: Scrip Pick Up

Next Payment Due:
Wednesday, Jan. 30
\$100/student

Sign up for upcoming
fundraisers at
www.felc.com/highschool

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

Dec. 30, 2018



Information for FELC Youth and Families
Grades K-12



Hittin' The Ground Runnin'
In 2019

As December comes to a close, it's time to put 2018 in the rearview mirror and jump with joy into 2019 as we get everything rollin' again. Mark these dates on your calendar as we giddy-up:

- Jan. 2:** Confirmation resumes for all grades with large group. 9th grade students & parents meeting follows. reFUEL and Kid's Life also begin meeting again.
- Jan. 6:** Sunday School resumes at both sites.
- Jan. 9:** Welcome to Confirmation meeting for students beginning 7th grade Confirmation in September.
- Jan. 25-27:** Winter Camp for grades 4 & 5 at Crossways, Pine Lake
- Jan. 27:** FELC Family Open Gym at the North Site 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Jan. 30:** Unity Worship at Fox Cities Exhibition Center for Confirmation all grades.

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
Heidi Schreiner, Youth & Summer Ministry Coordinator: hschreiner@felc.com

Love Jesus. Live your call.



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



**Confirmation and
Middle School Scoop**



**No Sunday School This Morning
We're Back on Jan. 6**

&

Celebrate Epiphany



Blessings on the end of your vacation time with family today! Next week we will begin Sunday School once again as we celebrate

the arrival of the wise men as they recognize and worship baby Jesus as our Savior.

**Getting Back Into the Swing
&
Livin' Large On Wednesday**



This Wednesday all grades begin the second semester of Confirmation with large group. Let's get back into the swing of learning together!



Remember! The first Family Assignments for 7th & 8th grade students are due our first day back, Wednesday, Jan. 2!



**Heading Into
7th Grade
Confirmation in
September?
Let's Meet!**

If your student is starting 7th grade Confirmation in September we need to huddle-up, get to know each other, and start making plans. Join us on Wednesday, Jan. 9, from 7-8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site. We'll be talking about the registration process, Confirmation camp, next year's calendar, pastor and family meetings, general mission and expectations of Confirmation. This meeting is for both students and parents and is key to starting strong. Please try your best to attend. Contact Kirsten Owens, Faith Formation Coordinator, at kowens@felc.com with any questions you may have.



Choir Corner
We begin to sing again on Jan. 6. Warm up those vocal chords!



**Kid's Life
Is Back
on Jan. 2**
If you're in grades K-6 let's start the new year together!
Kid's Life begins Jan. 2 from 7-8 p.m. in Downtown Site Room 014.

**IF YOU WILL BE IN
7TH GRADE NEXT SEPT.
WE HAVE A DATE**

If you will be in 7th grade in the fall and intend on participating in Confirmation then don't miss the Welcome to Confirmation meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 9, from 7-8 p.m. In Downtown Site Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing Confirmation camp, next year's calendar, pastor and family meetings, expectations, and more. Let's head out of the gate together for a great start!



**QPR & 9th Grade
2nd Semester Meeting on
Jan. 2.**

Our first Wednesday after Christmas break, Jan. 2, the 9th grade class will have a QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) presentation by Prevent Suicide Fox Cities during large group from 7-8 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend. Following the meeting from 8-8:30 p.m. there will be a 2nd semester meeting when we will talk about preparations and receive the necessary forms for Affirmation of Baptism in April. This is a required meeting. All will be in Fellowship Hall.

*Have questions or want to volunteer?
Contact Kirsten Owens at kowens@felc.com or 733-2303.*

FELC Engage Page: Dec 30, 2018—1st Sun. of Christmas

Luke 2:41-52 *Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was 12 years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.*

Sun, Dec. 30: Family Project: "On this last Sunday of the year, measure all your kids! Mark their heights on a large piece of paper taped to the wall...Ask them how they think they have grown this past year...not just physically but spiritually, emotionally, & mentally...Jesus had to grow & learn, too...Sometimes adults forget that kids know stuff & have things to teach us about God. Ask the children what they think about God and what they think adults forget about God, church, and faith. Add some of these thoughts to the growth chart. Tuck the paper away, but don't forget to bring it back out a year from now to see how much they all grew!" Copied from <https://www.united-church.ca/worship-liturgical-season/1st-after-christmas>

Mon, Dec. 31: I cannot imagine Mary & Joseph's state of mind when they discovered that Jesus was missing. I think of the sinking feeling in my stomach any time I was faced with the possibility that something had happened to one of my kids. And when I discovered them, safe, sound, & oblivious to my worry, anxiety often spilled out as anger. We all must do our best to evaluate when reasonable concern becomes a need to control another. May we be open to the Spirit's call for our children.

Tues, Jan. 1: Paul says, "As God's chosen ones, holy & beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." Col. 3:12 As members of the body of Christ, let's make 2019 the year of kindness. For your own New Year's resolution, ask that your loving care for others be a true sign of Emmanuel, God with us and in us throughout the New Year!

Wed., Jan. 2, Isaiah 60:1-6 Written when they had just returned from Babylonian captivity, the returning Israelites would have found the city of Jerusalem and its temple in ruins. However, Isaiah proclaims hope and light to this little colony on the outskirts of the great empire of Persia. This hope is not grounded in a return to national might, but in a recognition that from all over the world, people would come to pay homage to the Lord. Isaiah says, "For darkness shall cover the earth, & thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." Isaiah 60:2-3 In uncertain times may we realize that our light and hope do not come from national power, but from the Lord!

Thurs, Jan. 3, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 This beautiful Psalm relates how kings from Sheba and Seba will bring gifts to the king in Israel and describes why. It is because the king delivers the needy and those who have no helpers, has pity on the weak and saves their lives, redeems people from oppression and violence, and calls their lifeblood precious. What an example for all leaders! May we judge ourselves and our leaders on the ways we help and value those who are without power.

Fri., Jan. 4, Ephesians 3:1-12 Prof. Craig Koester points out that the mystery story recounted in these verses differs from traditional mysteries. "In a typical mystery story, one of the heirs to an estate usually plots to seize the whole inheritance. The idea is to exclude others from the gift, so that one heir can have it all. In Ephesians, however, the mystery revolves around God giving the inheritance away too freely. What is so mysterious is that God has written a whole new group of heirs into his will. This does not shortchange those who were heirs before, because there are "boundless riches" in Christ (3:8). There is plenty to go around. So the mystery in this case is the mystery of grace."* Instead of ending the story, this inheritance of grace for the Gentiles begins a new story of love and inclusion.

*http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=19

Sat, Jan. 5, Mat. 2:1-12, Prof. Mark Allan Powell writes about calling the 3 Magi either kings or wise men. "Such legends...may distract us from the story Matthew tells...The kings in Mat. 2 are Herod & Jesus. Herod exemplifies the sort of king whom Jesus later denounces...He is a tyrant who lords over those he rules rather than serving them...By contrast, the infant king Jesus is helpless & vulnerable, a ruler whose power is hidden in humility... The wise men in Mat. 2 are the chief priests & the scribes who function as Herod's key advisors. Learned in the scriptures, they possess academic knowledge that both Herod and the magi lack...It does not lead them to their Messiah but causes them to become involved in a plot to kill him." May we be like the Magi—followers who come to worship, praise, & obey. http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=5

*For an online discussion of these and other questions concerning the texts, go to our Facebook FELC Engage Page. <https://www.facebook.com/FELCEngagePage>.