

FELC Friendship Pads

Please fill out the Friendship Pad when asked during worship. If the church office does not currently have your contact information or it has changed, please indicate that in the appropriate column.

Nursery Care

The Downtown Site Nursery (located across from the Library in the Gathering Area) is open for family use during all services and staffed during the 9:15 a.m. service. The North Site Nursery (off the main hallway, across from the restrooms) is staffed at both services. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Hearing Assistance

If you are in need of a personal receiver, ask a Downtown Site usher, or a North Site soundboard technician.

Large-print Resources

If you are in need of a large print Bible or bulletin, ask an usher at the Downtown Site, or a greeter at the North Site.

AED Units on Site

Automated external defibrillators are outside the Downtown Site Usher's Room and next to the North Site sound booth.

Video Recording

The 8 a.m. Downtown Site worship service is video-recorded to share with our homebound members upon request.

In Need of Prayer?

For additions to the prayer chain, email or call the church office (felc@felc.com; 733-2303) or email Pastor Mary (mbauer@felc.com).

More Information

For detailed information on these and more FELC events, opportunities and ministries, pick up a newsletter in the Gathering Area, visit our website at www.felc.com, or check the bulletin boards and kiosks in the Gathering Area.

The Week of Feb. 11, 2018 At-A-Glance

Sunday, Feb. 11

8:50 a.m.
9:15 a.m.
9:15/9:25 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
12:15 p.m.

Monday

9 a.m.
Noon
5:15 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
8:15 p.m.

Tuesday

6:30 a.m.
6:30 p.m.
7 p.m.
7 p.m.

Wednesday

9:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
Noon
Noon
Noon
1 p.m.
5:45 p.m.
6:15 p.m.
6:15 p.m.

Thursday

6 a.m.
9 a.m.
6:30 p.m.

Friday

6:30 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 18

8:50 a.m.
9:15 a.m.
9:15/9:25 a.m.
9:30 a.m.

Annual Soup Luncheon & Annual Meeting, NS

Cherub/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room
Adult Learning Time, DS Lounge
Children's Learning Time, DS/NS
Women's Study Group, NS Library
FELC Annual Meeting Soup Luncheon, NS Gathering Area
FELC Annual Meeting, NS Sanctuary

DS=Downtown Site
NS=North Site

Newsletter Deadline

Monday Morning Quilters, DS Fellowship Hall
Intern Enrichment Ministry Team, DS Lounge
Stephen Ministry Meeting, DS Lounge
Griefshare, DS Lounge
Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library
Youth Connections Ministry Team, Osorio's
Men's Ministry, DS 221
Worship & Music Ministry Team, DS Lounge

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Morning Service, DS Sanctuary
Lenten Study with Pastor Mary, DS 221
Noon Hour Philosophers, DS Fellowship Hall
Sarah Circle, DS 114
Stewardship Committee, DS Lounge
Miriam Circle, DS Library
Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room
Ash Wednesday Evening Services, DS & NS Sanctuaries
Confirmation Families Attend Ash Wednesday Worship for Class, DS & NS Sanctuaries

Early Risers Women's Bible Study, DS Lounge
Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge
ATC Open Basketball, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library

Cherub/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room
Adult Learning Time, DS Lounge
Children's Learning Time, DS/NS
Women's Study Group, NS Library

Buying Valentine's Gifts?

Use AmazonSmile and Support FELC

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to FELC whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Just select First English Lutheran Church in Appleton after signing in at smile.amazon.com.



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 Hours: W: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Announcements
Week of Feb. 11, 2018

Love Jesus. Live your call.

Sunday at FELC

FELC Annual Meeting

Today, Feb. 11, 12:15 p.m.
North Site Sanctuary

Soup Lunch

Starting at 11:30 a.m.
North Site Gathering Area
Free-will offering to benefit youth attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

2017 Annual Progress Reports

Copies of the FELC 2017 Annual Progress Report are available in the Gathering Area. If you take one, please bring your copy with you to the meeting today as a limited number were printed to conserve resources.

Scrip Sale!

Support the high school youth attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. In today's bulletin is an insert to purchase gift cards through the *Shop With Scrip* program. Order forms along with payment are due tomorrow, Feb. 12 at noon. Thank you for your support!

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Meditations on Psalms

Join others in our congregation for an ongoing discussion of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book *Meditations on the Psalms* on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Downtown Site Lounge.

Prayer Shawls

The prayer shawl ministry at First English is a way to have something tangible to grasp during time of prayer, grief, sorrow, joy, pain, or any other time you are in need of a comforting prayer. These shawls have been knitted with patience and love, blessed by a pastor and inscribed with a First English tag. They are free to be gifted to anyone that you may know that could need a loving gesture in the name of Jesus our Lord. Take a shawl and a prayer card and give the gift of presence. Prayer shawls are located at both sites in the Gathering Area or Church Office.

Looking Ahead

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) Worship Service Schedule

Downtown Site: 9:30 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.
North Site: 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday Lenten Worship Service Schedule

Downtown Site:
Feb. 21 - Mar. 21: 9:30 a.m.
Feb. 21 - Mar. 7: 6:15 p.m.

North Site:
Mar. 14 and 21: 6:15 p.m.

Griefshare

Are you struggling with the death of a parent, spouse, family member, or friend? *Griefshare* is a nationwide 13 week program that has helped many people deal with their loss. The video curriculum leads participants through many topics dealing with grief, giving participants opportunities to share from their own experiences. Join us on Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Downtown Site Lounge. You may join at any time during the course of the study. Workbooks will be available at the meeting. Contact Pastor Mary at mbauer@felc.com if you would like more information.

Lenten Worship Volunteer Opportunities

Lent begins on Feb. 14 and continues until Easter Sunday on Apr. 1. With Lent comes additional worship volunteer opportunities. Sign up in the Gathering Area or log in to your Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) profile to view these opportunities. Questions? Contact Hannah Sprenger at hsprenger@felc.com.



Lenten Volunteers Needed

Confirmation Rehearsal Meal Helpers Needed

Every year we celebrate the completion of the Confirmation journey of this year's confirmands with a rehearsal meal for students and their families. We have been grateful for the help of many in the congregation with this event in the past. This year the rehearsal dinner is Wednesday, Apr. 11 at the North Site. We need folks to help set-up, serve food, and clean-up after. You can choose the shift that works for you at www.felc.com/forms. Our helpers find this is a fun way to serve and celebrate with our Confirmation families.

We Need Kind, Open Ears

Each 9th grade Confirmation student is required to participate in a faith interview as part of their final preparation for Affirmation of Baptism. This is an important opportunity for students to give voice to their ideas about faith. Every interview is given by two or three members of the congregation that have given their time to have kind, open ears to hear our student's thoughts. We need interviewers for the evenings of Tuesday, Apr. 3 and Wednesday, Apr. 4 at the Downtown Site. Interviewers do not need to be available both dates and all times to participate. Please consider giving a bit of time to listen to this year's thoughtful confirmands. You can see and select your preferred times via the First English webpage at www.felc.com/forms.

Help With Our Communion Class Seder

Each year our students grades 2 and higher participate in an educational Seder meal as part of their Communion Class. This is a fun activity that the student and their parents appreciate. This year the meal is served on Monday, Mar. 12 at the Downtown Site. The meal is brief, only about 30 minutes. We are looking for a few folks who can help prepare the simple dishes ahead of time, set tables, serve, and clean-up. This is an opportunity to support our young people as they excitedly prepare for this important sacrament. To help go to www.felc.com/forms to choose your role.

Beth Moore in Green Bay

Beth Moore, a well-known teacher and writer with a calling to minister to women, is in Green Bay on Apr. 13-14 for a seminar. If you are interested in attending with other women from our congregation, contact Pastor Mary. She will buy tickets (\$59) so if you would like this reduced rate, please contact her to reserve a ticket before Feb. 12.

Noon Hour Philosophers

The Noon Hour Philosophers meet for an hour at noon in the Downtown Site Fellowship Hall each Wednesday. If you have questions please contact Mary Poulson at mmaryjep@att.net or (920)734-8137.

Feb. 14: *The Evolving Retail World*

John Burgland, Senior General Manager
Fox Valley Mall, Appleton

Prayers For Community Care

Each week we will be lifting up an organization in our area that works to provide vital services in our community. We are partners with many of these groups that show the light of God to those in need. Consider praying and possibly volunteering for the groups we mention. If you would like more information on any of these groups, please visit www.felc.com/outreach. This week's focus:

Appleton Housing Authority

Contact: Kim Esselman, (920)739-6811 ext. 108

Shaped by the Cross for Lent

During Lent this year, join us to study *Shaped by the Cross: Meditations on the Sufferings of Jesus*.

"Reflecting on Michelangelo's majestic *Pieta*, ... Ken Gire offers seven meditations on a costly discipleship that invite us to take up our cross and follow our Savior - through death to life everlasting."

Use this study as an opportunity to learn what it means to use hardships and sufferings to grow in faith and in love for Jesus. Classes will meet directly after Wednesday worship in both the morning and evening and will begin on Feb. 14 in Room 114 at the Downtown Site. Books are available in the Gathering Areas at both sites.

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

- Nathan Meissner
- Angel Manos
- Todd Hollenberger
- Mary Lou Garnsworthy
- Brooklyn Ann Converse
- Jacob Schwab
- Justin Schwab
- Laurie Niles
- Lynn Boenker
- Debra Boushley
- David Heindel
- Doug Hansen
- George Krempin
- Amy Ponomarev
- Moore Peregrine
- Tom Roy
- Je'Ann Johnson
- Paul Henrikson
- Karen Reeck
- Juanita Gauerke
- Robb Schaefer
- Karen Schultz
- Walter Seacotte
- Barb Kuenzi

Prayers of Comfort

Families of:

- Jacob Frerking
- Bob Hinkens
- Roger Karn
- Kathy Skaar
- Bill Vanden Elzen

Prayers for Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- Stephanie Olson

Prayers for Those in Seminary

- David Shudy

Prayers for Those in the Military

- BM3 Kyle Kramer, USCG
- LCPL Robert Kopesky II
- PFC Samuel Sinclair

AA Corner

If you are or someone you know could use some confidential help with stopping drinking, please call Dale R. at (920)419-2794.



High School Youth News

Grades 9-12

Feb. 11, 2018

reFUEL

DS YOUTH ROOM
WEDNESDAYS 7-8 P.M.
For Grades 10-12

- 2/14: Ash Wednesday, no reFUEL
Worship 6:15pm DS and NS
- 2/21: Lent Activity
Week 1
- 2/28: Taco night! Nacho average youth group!
Lent Activity- Week 2

*Let today be the day
you give up who
you've been for
who you can
become.*



ELCA Youth Gathering Updates

Fundraisers:

- Sunday, Feb. 11 (Today):**
Annual Meeting Soup Lunch
Scrip Sale
- Sunday, Feb. 18:**
Scrip Pick Up



Payment Schedule:

- Thursday, Feb. 15:**
3rd payment due - \$200

Questions? Contact Heidi
hschreiner@felc.com

Do you love Summer Intern Ministry and want to find a way to give back? We have the perfect opportunity for you! Offer on-site babysitting for this year's *Make an IMPACT!* fundraiser! The event is **Friday, Mar. 2, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at The Outer Edge Stage.** Babysitting will take place in the lower level of the venue which contains Sunday School classrooms. Contact Heidi Schreiner if you're interested in donating your services! (hschreiner@felc.com)



Follow **felc.youth** on Instagram and **FELC YOUTH** Facebook!



Feb. 11, 2018



Information for FELC Youth and Families
Grades K-12

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE TOGETHER?



- ◆ Help with the Communion Class Educational Seder Meal on Mar. 12. Prepare a simple dish in advance, set tables and do basic clean-up.
- ◆ Help with the 9th grade Confirmation Rehearsal Meal on Apr. 11. Help is needed with set-up, serving, and clean-up.



Both are great service opportunities for Confirmation Family Assignments. Even if your child isn't in Confirmation service is always a great thing to do together! Sign-ups are available at www.felc.com/forms.

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



Why Ash Wednesday is a Great Way to Spend Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day falls on the same day as Ash

Wednesday this year, Feb. 14. Huh, you might be saying, sure seems awfully somber when we should be celebrating love. Actually, taking your kids to church on Valentine's/Ash Wednesday may be the best holiday mash-up ever! Here's why:

- * Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. An important season in the church. Let them know it's a special time.
- * Kids need a chance to experience these traditional observances of the church. No matter where they find themselves in the world as they grow up they will always be able to connect to these sacred times.
- * Ash Wednesday reminds us all that all of the stuff we acquire and the difficult times we weather are simply passing moments. We belong to someone greater, Jesus Christ.
- * Valentine's Day is all about love. There's no greater love than the Christ's love for us!

Grab dinner, attend worship, and share your thoughts over chocolates afterward. Valentine's/Ash Wednesday is a great way to talk about radical love! Ash Wednesday services are offered at 6:15 p.m. at both sites.

Have a Case of the *Where Is Its?* Or the *Couldn't Make Its?*



Maybe you couldn't make it to church

some Sunday or you misplaced your Pastor Chat sheet for family discussion and prayer. No problem!

We've got you covered! Go to www.felc.com/forms and check under Resources for the most recent Pastor Chat sheet.

Choir Corner We still have a lot to sing in spring so keep on comin'!

No Kid's Life This Week

We encourage families to attend Ash Wednesday worship together.



Confirmation and Middle School Scoop



Ash Wednesday Worship is Confirmation Class This Week

This week Wednesday is a Family Attendance Night in Confirmation. Instead of standard class we ask families to attend the Ash Wednesday worship together at 6:15 p.m. at either site. Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season and is a very important observance in the Christian church as it gives us the opportunity to identify the pleasures, trials, prestige, and power of our world as transitory. Our true life is in Christ. Though the words "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust" can be seen as grim it is actually preparing us for the good news that no matter what happens in our lives Jesus holds us close. Please give this activity the same level of priority as other Confirmation nights.

9th Grade Students:

links were sent out last week with faith interview and rehearsal meal sign-ups. Please let Kirsten know if you did not receive them.



Remember to be stocking up on basic hygiene and quick-prep foods for the Compassion Pantry Drive on Mar. 7 & 14!



Confirmation Youth Group Comes to a Close

Thank you to everyone who participated in CYG on Sundays at the North Site. We have done all sorts of different activities this year! We made sandwiches for the homeless, played games, held discussions of faith, explored New Year's resolutions, helped with the Christmas program by making props, decorated the youth room, PHEW! What a mouth full! Thank you for your participation and we look forward to watching you grow in your faith!



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

Make an IMPACT!

Benefiting the Summer Intern Ministry of First English Lutheran Church

How YOU Can Help Make an IMPACT!

Be a Sponsor:

Gold \$1,000 Cash Sponsor: Listed as major sponsor on event advertising, recognized in event digital presentation, website exposure, four admission tickets.

Silver \$500 Sponsor: Listed as sponsor on all event advertising, Recognized in event digital presentation, website exposure, two admission tickets.

Donate an Item: We are looking for new, unused items, services, gift cards, and fellowship activities to be used for the silent auction and to create the many beautiful raffle baskets.

Attend the Event: Tickets \$25 and are being sold in the Gathering Area between services and online at www.felc.com/impact.

I would like to be a Cash Sponsor

___ Gold \$1,000 Cash Sponsor
___ Silver \$500 Cash Sponsor
___ Cash Sponsor in the amount of \$ ___

I would like to donate an item:

Description: _____

Purchase Event Tickets

___ Number of Tickets \$ ___ Total

Contact Info:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

Please complete and return this form. If being accompanied by an item, please deliver both by Feb. 21, 2018, to the downtown site Office. Please make checks payable to FELC, and write IMPACT in the memo line. **We are grateful for your support!**

Make an IMPACT!

Benefiting the Summer Intern Ministry of First English Lutheran Church

Celebration, Fellowship and Fundraising

Friday, Mar. 2 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Outer Edge Stage in Appleton
\$25/Ticket

PRE-EVENT RAFFLE

Apple Series Watch 3

Valued at: \$359

- *Water Resistant up to 50M *Faster Dual-core Processor
- *Speaker and Microphone *Capacity 8GB
- *Built-in GPS *Accelerometer
- *Easy to Use *Altimeter
- *Great Display *Gyroscope
- *Heart Rate Sensor

Purchase tickets TODAY through Feb. 25!

Drawing - Feb. 26 at noon

Ticket Prices: 1 for \$5, 5 for \$20 or 15 for \$40!

First English Lutheran Church SCRIP Order Form
Benefitting FELC Youth Annual Trips

Order Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check one: Pick up at DS Pick up at NS

General Information

Please return completed form to the Church Office or email to Heidi Schreiner at *hschreiner@felc.com*. Payment is required at time of order. Orders placed by **Noon on Monday, Feb. 12**, will be available for pick up on **Sunday, Feb. 18**.

Questions? Contact Heidi Schreiner at (920)733-2303 or *hschreiner@felc.com*.

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

Totals

Total # Scrip Purchased: _____

Total Amount Due: _____

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

Check # _____

Cash

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

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

Turn this sheet over to provide your contact information.



What is Count Me In? Count Me In is a periodic emphasis to lift up volunteer opportunities within FELC, the community and the world. Take a look - some will be short term obligations while others may be ongoing worship roles that are in need of more volunteers.

FEBRUARY 2018 COUNT ME IN

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Service I/We tend to worship at: _____

___ Lenten Services Volunteer Roles

- ___ Worship Assistant
- ___ Usher /Greeter
- ___ Reader
- ___ Communion Setup/Server (Circle One or both)
- ___ Soundboard

Please also mark the services you wish to help at:

Downtown Site

- ___ Feb. 14, 9:30 a.m. ___ Mar. 7, 9:30 a.m.
- ___ Feb. 14, 6:15 p.m. ___ Mar. 7, 6:15 p.m.
- ___ Feb. 21, 9:30 a.m. ___ Mar. 14, 9:30 a.m.
- ___ Feb. 21, 6:15 p.m. ___ Mar. 21, 9:30 a.m.
- ___ Feb. 28, 9:30 a.m. ___ Mar. 29, 9:30 a.m.
- ___ Feb. 28, 6:15 p.m. ___ Mar. 30, 6:15 p.m.

North Site

- ___ Feb. 14, 6:15 p.m. ___ Mar. 21, 6:15 p.m.
- ___ Mar. 14, 6:15 p.m. ___ Mar. 29, 6:15 p.m.

___ Acolyte (all services are at 6:15 p.m.)

- ___ Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday, DS
- ___ Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday, NS
- ___ Mar. 29, Maundy Thursday, NS
- ___ Mar. 30, Good Friday, DS

___ **Make an IMPACT!** (Mar. 2, The OuterEdge Stage)

- ___ Set-Up Morning/Afternoon
- ___ Event Help 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- ___ Provide Childcare on Site 6:30-9:30 p.m.

___ **Fox Valley Lutheran Homes Lent Luncheon (Mar. 7)**

- ___ Provide Soup
- ___ Provide Bread
- ___ Provide Dessert
- ___ Help with Setup, Serving, Cleanup

___ **Palm Sunday Breakfast Help (Mar. 25, men only)**

___ **Picnic Planning Task Force (Picnic is June 4)**

___ **Communion Visits to the Homebound**

___ **Vacation Bible School Planning**

___ **Office Volunteer for Mailings**

___ **Offering Counters**

___ **First Communion Seder Meal**

___ **Confirmation Help**

- ___ Rehearsal Meal Help (Apr. 11)
- ___ Faith Interviewers (Apr. 3)
- ___ Faith Interviewers (Apr. 4)

Please turn over for more opportunities.

FELC DS Engage Page: Transfiguration, February 11, 2018

Mark 9:2-10 *Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; I listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.*

Sun, Feb 11: Family Project: Epiphany starts with the voice of God at Jesus' baptism saying, *"You are my son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."* Epiphany ends on Transfiguration Sunday, when we hear again, *"This is my son, the Beloved; listen to him!"* Act out these two scenes (above & Mark 1:9-11) and think about how the bystanders felt. Have everyone list ways that they know and experience Jesus as God's Son. Examples might be his teachings, his healings, or how he showed extraordinary forgiveness.

Mon, Feb 12: As shown above, God announces that Jesus is His son in different ways at different times in his ministry. Speaking to this change, Caroline Lewis writes, *"the transition from, "you are my child," to "this is my child," means that you share, along with Jesus, a move from chosenness and glory to heartache and rejection. To abuse and imprisonment. To injustice and death."* As Americans we can buy into a prosperity gospel, but the example of Christ always shows glory isn't the status quo but prepares us for a life of costly service.
<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=5057>

Tues, Feb 13: In Matthew's version of the Transfiguration, God delights in his son, Jesus. Expand your image of God to include laughter and delight. His love is like smiling Grandparents who simply can't stop bragging about their grandchildren. As Matt Skinner says, *"The Transfiguration does not sketch an image of intimidating purity or self-satisfied and inviolable majesty. It's tender holiness."*
http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2341

Ash Wed., Feb 14, Mat. 6:1-6, 16-21 Everyone loves a good show. Whether we are determined to see the play *"Hamilton"*, to find out why everyone is talking about *"This Is Us"*, or to go to the latest blockbuster movie, most of us like to get lost in a story. These verses tell us that, faith-wise, we should not try to put on a show. Our acts of piety should not be barriers to those who aren't "feeling" like they can "act" as if faith comes second nature to them. Instead, our heartfelt humility should open the door to other sinners who struggle. As you receive the ashes, ask God to open your heart, using you to make room for all who want to experience God and become part of a loving community.

Thurs, Feb 15, Psalm 25:1-10 When my son was five and beginning to learn violin, his teacher would have him start each lesson by bowing to her and saying, "Teach me to learn." The psalmist displays this attitude of respect and humility that is the first step in being teachable. When I am full of myself and my own abilities, it is very hard for anyone to break through with new information. As this psalm begins, the writer magnifies God, proclaiming his greatness and might. He goes on to confess his own shortcomings and to ask for mercy. The writer is asking God to teach him how to learn, how to be open and accepting of the Lord's lessons. This Lent, ask God to teach you how to be a humble and expectant learner.

Fri, Feb 16, I Peter 3:18-22 In this passage, Peter does not suggest Noah and his family were saved *from* the water of the flood, but rather *through* or even *by* water. Peter shows that the underlying symptom of sinfulness was more of a threat than the waters of the flood. Similarly, God uses the cleansing waters of baptism to prepare a people with hearts that can differentiate between wrong and right, and who desire to follow Jesus. The waters of baptism do not strengthen your ability to deal with sin on your own, but those waters are a cleansing flood and they wash everything in their path. This Lent, confess your sins and look to your baptism as a flood of righteousness that can dislodge the most stubborn stains.

Sat, Feb 17, Mark 1:9-15 Caroline Lewis suggests we look at Jesus going to face temptation armed only with the word of God, and asks us to acknowledge our one true temptation—believing that God is not present. Jesus enters the wilderness, *"Not with fighting skills, not with self-help strategies, not with techniques for passing the tests, but only his personal knowledge...that God will be there."* Whether we are tempted by alcohol, food, or an inability to forgive, we are asked during Lent to give up the mindset that we face these struggles alone. We are asked to believe that we are beloved children of God, and participants in the power of the resurrection! * <http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=3537>

*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: Transfiguration, February 11, 2018

Mark 9:2-10 *Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; I listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.*

Sun, Feb 11: Family Project: Epiphany starts with the voice of God at Jesus' baptism saying, *"You are my son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."* Epiphany ends on Transfiguration Sunday, when we hear again, *"This is my son, the Beloved; listen to him!"* Act out these two scenes (above & Mark 1:9-11) and think about how the bystanders felt. Have everyone list ways that they know and experience Jesus as God's Son. Examples might be his teachings, his healings, or how he showed extraordinary forgiveness.

Mon, Feb 12: As shown above, God announces that Jesus is His son in different ways at different times in his ministry. Speaking to this change, Caroline Lewis writes, *"the transition from, "you are my child," to "this is my child," means that you share, along with Jesus, a move from chosenness and glory to heartache and rejection. To abuse and imprisonment. To injustice and death."* As Americans we can buy into a prosperity gospel, but the example of Christ always shows glory isn't the status quo but prepares us for a life of costly service.
<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=5057>

Tues, Feb 13: In Matthew's version of the Transfiguration, God delights in his son, Jesus. Expand your image of God to include laughter and delight. His love is like smiling Grandparents who simply can't stop bragging about their grandchildren. As Matt Skinner says, *"The Transfiguration does not sketch an image of intimidating purity or self-satisfied and inviolable majesty. It's tender holiness."*
http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2341

Ash Wed., Feb 14, Mat. 6:1-6, 16-21 Everyone loves a good show. Whether we are determined to see the play *"Hamilton"*, to find out why everyone is talking about *"This Is Us"*, or to go to the latest blockbuster movie, most of us like to get lost in a story. These verses tell us that, faith-wise, we should not try to put on a show. Our acts of piety should not be barriers to those who aren't "feeling" like they can "act" as if faith comes second nature to them. Instead, our heartfelt humility should open the door to other sinners who struggle. As you receive the ashes, ask God to open your heart, using you to make room for all who want to experience God and become part of a loving community.

Thurs, Feb 15, Psalm 22:23-31 It is good for us to remember how this psalm starts. The psalmist cries out the words that Jesus will echo from the cross. *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* Firstly, as James Limburg reminds us, it is good to know *"If Jesus believed himself forsaken, far from God, it should not be surprising that ordinary believers feel that way at times!"* He also reminds us, *"There are questions that we shall never have answered. Many of them begin with "Why?"... The psalm suggests that the place to bring these questions is before God, in the company of the gathering of believers."** So often it is in the gathering of the community we are encouraged, and can say with the Psalmist, "I will live for him."
*Limburg, James, Psalms (Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, 2000) p. 498.

Fri, Feb 16, Romans 4:13-25 What is possible with faith? For Abraham, faith in God let him believe that he would have many descendants even at a time when he was childless. William Barclay relates a story about Mother Theresa. *"Once Saint Theresa set out to build a convent with a sum the equivalent of half a crown as her complete resources. Someone said to her, "Not even Saint Theresa can accomplish much with half a crown." "True," she answered, "but Saint Theresa and half a crown and God can do anything."* Where is God calling you out in faith? Are you being prompted to share the love and grace of Christ with someone? Trust God and step out in faith! *Barclay, William, The Letter to the Romans (Westminster Press, Philadelphia) p. 69.

Sat, Feb 17, Mark 8:31-38 How difficult it must have been for Peter to hear this public reprimand given by Jesus! We know Jesus acted out of mercy and grace, so we must wonder why this reprimand wasn't given in private. I imagine Peter was only saying what everyone was thinking. There are times when we are tempted to stop those who we love from doing what God is calling them to do. Because we set our minds on our own feelings of loneliness or concern, we can prevent our loved ones from fulfilling their call. When counseling family and friends, remember Peter and set your mind on God's call and not your own desires.

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