

## 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](mailto:felc@felc.com); 733-2303) or email Pastor Mary ([mbauer@felc.com](mailto: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](http://www.felc.com), or check the bulletin boards and kiosks in the Gathering Area.

## The Week of Jan. 28, 2018 At-A-Glance

### Sunday, Jan. 28

8:50 a.m. Angelus Choir Rehearsal, 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  
10:30 a.m. ELCA Youth Gathering Brunch, DS Youth Room  
11:45 a.m. New & Review (Week Three), Pastor Jeff's Home

### Monday

9 a.m. Monday Morning Quilters, DS Fellowship Hall  
Noon Intern Enrichment Ministry Team, DS Lounge  
8:15 p.m. Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

### Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Men's Ministry, NS Library  
5 p.m. FELC Mental Health Support Team, DS 221

### Wednesday

10:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 221  
Noon Noon Hour Philosophers, DS Fellowship Hall  
5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room  
6:15 p.m. Unity Worship for Confirmation All Grades, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel  
6:15 p.m. Wednesday Night Worship, DS Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m. Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room  
7 p.m. reFUEL Grades 10-12, DS Youth Room

### Thursday

6 a.m. Early Risers Women's Bible Study, DS Lounge  
9 a.m. Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge  
1 p.m. 50+ Planning Meeting, DS 114  
6:30 p.m. ATC Open Basketball, NS Activity Center

### Friday

6:30 a.m. Men's Ministry, NS Library

### Sunday, Feb. 4

8:50 a.m. **Boy Scout Sunday; New Member Sunday**  
Cherub/Angelus Choir Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room  
9:15 a.m. Confirmation Youth Group, NS Activity Center & Youth Room  
9:15 a.m. Adult Learning Time, DS Lounge  
9:30 a.m. Women's Study Group, NS Library

## Buy Fair Trade Coffee

Make your consumer dollars count! The Coffee Project directly links our church to the farmers and families that grow the coffee, tea and cocoa. Conventional coffee market prices have fallen to historic lows causing extreme hardship to coffee growing families. Entire national economies are suffering the effects of the global market in coffee. By changing our buying habits and buying fairly traded coffee, we can support the farmers and their families that are part of the Equal Exchange cooperatives. Our next coffee Sunday will be next Sunday, Feb. 4. Please continue to support this Good Coffee for a Good Cause project.



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.

Announcements  
Week of Jan. 28, 2018

### North Site

Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.  
Office Hours: W: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

# Love Jesus. Live your call.

## Sunday at FELC

### Altar Flowers

The Downtown Site altar flowers are provided by the Bakken family to the glory of God and in honor of Christian's birthday.

### Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Meditations on Psalms

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

## For the Soul of a Nation, No Deportation

What does deporting immigrants who are fleeing poverty, violence and corruption do to us as individuals and a nation? What do we lose without them? Come and hear stories of immigrants, DACA students and DREAMERS. Presented by ESTHER, UNIDOS Por un Futuro Mejor, and Winnebago Worship Group Religious Society of Friends. Today, Jan. 28, from 3-4:30 p.m., Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2600 E Philip Lane, Appleton.

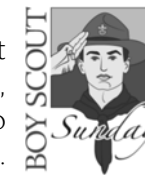
## Christ in Our Home

The January-March *Christ In Our Home* booklets are available in the Gathering Area. The Scripture readings for this quarter follow the Revised Common Lectionary.

## Looking Ahead

### Boy Scout Sunday

Next Sunday, Feb. 4 is Boy Scout Sunday! If you are a Boy Scout, wear your uniform to church so we can recognize and honor you. If you'd like to help out with worship volunteer roles on this day, contact Hannah Sprenger at [hsprenger@felc.com](mailto:hsprenger@felc.com) to see what is available.



## FELC Annual Meeting

Sunday, 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

Please help yourself to a copy of the FELC 2017 Annual Progress Report, available in the Gathering Area. If you do take one, please bring your copy with you to the Annual Meeting on Feb. 11 as a limited number were printed to conserve resources.

Congregation Council Absentee Ballots will be available in the Church Office beginning Monday, Jan. 29. Copies of the nominees' bios are also in the Gathering Area.

### Media Tech Urgent Need

First English is in great need of more North Site Media Tech operators for the 10:30 a.m. service. The position requires you to advance the slideshow as the congregation follows the service. If you feel called to help with this position or have questions, please contact Hannah Sprenger at [hsprenger@felc.com](mailto:hsprenger@felc.com).

### Lenten Worship Volunteer Opportunities

The season of Lent begins on Feb. 14 this year and continues until Easter Sunday on Apr. 1. With Lent comes additional worship volunteer opportunities. Please find sign-up sheets 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](mailto:hsprenger@felc.com).

### Griefshare

Are you struggling with the death of a parent, spouse, family member, or friend? *Griefshare* is a nationwide program that has helped many people deal with their loss. Join us beginning Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Downtown Site Lounge. Please note that this date has been postponed in order to allow us more time for preparation. Contact Pastor Mary at [mbauer@felc.com](mailto:mbauer@felc.com) for more details.

### Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Wednesdays, Feb. 7-Mar. 14, 1-3 p.m.

Fox Valley Hematology & Oncology  
3925 North Gateway Drive, Appleton

*Powerful Tools for Caregivers* is a series designed to help you, the caregiver, take care of yourself while caring for a relative or friend. To register contact Jean Monson by Feb. 2 at [jmonson@fvho.org](mailto:jmonson@fvho.org) or (920)702-4816.

### North Site Office Hours Change

To better serve the needs at the North Site and make good use of staff resources the North Site Office hours have changed to Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### Hmmm...I've Been Wondering...

Do you have an interest in becoming a Confirmation small group leader? If so, please attend the Confirmation Small Group Leader meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 7-8 p.m. in Downtown Site Room 114. We will talk about the joys, challenges, and expectations of small group leadership, review the Confirmation calendar, and discuss advance training sessions to equip leaders for this important role. Please contact Kirsten Owens for more information at [kowens@felc.com](mailto:kowens@felc.com).



**Make An IMPACT!**  
Benefiting the Summer Intern Ministry of First English Lutheran Church

**Make An IMPACT!**  
**An Evening of Fellowship,  
Celebration & Fundraising**

The event will be held on Friday, Mar. 2. Mark your calendar and invite friends. Exciting things are happening this year: New venue, new activities during the evening, new entertainment and more. More information is coming soon - you won't want to miss this!

### 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](mailto:mmaryjep@att.net) or (920)734-8137.

### Jan. 31: Understanding Korea to Understanding the World

Matty Wegehaupt, Instructor,  
Freshman Studies, Gender Studies,  
East Asian Studies

### 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](http://www.felc.com/outreach). This week's focus:

### Appleton Area School District United for Reading Success

Contact: Mary Greiner (832-6319 or [volunteerservices@aad.k12.wi.us](mailto:volunteerservices@aad.k12.wi.us)).

### Fox Valley Lutheran Homes News

**Apartments for Rent:** FVLH has 1 & 2 BR apartments available at Linwood Place, a ministry of Fox Valley Lutheran Homes, Supportive Independent Living in a Faith-Based Senior Community. To arrange a tour, call Becky (734-7225), John (419-5754), or Brian (840-3578.)

### Recycle Used Eyeglasses/Hearing Aids

The Appleton Evening Lions Club have placed collection bins in the Gathering Area. FELC member, Win Neubert is regularly checking the bins so feel free to continue to fill them with your used eyeglasses/hearing aids.

### 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
- George & Susan Meyer
- David Heindel
- Doug Hansen
- George Krempin
- Amy Ponomarev
- Moore Peregrine
- Tom Roy
- Je'Ann Johnson
- Paul Henriksen
- Karen Reeck
- Juanita Gauerke
- Robb Schaefer

### Prayers of Comfort

Families of:

- Bob Gauerke
- John Gronholm
- Jacob Frerking
- Deloris VanLaarhoven
- Kitty Hujet
- Diane Johnson
- Harold Rohlfing
- Kathy Skaar

### 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

Jan. 28, 2018

## reFUEL

DS YOUTH ROOM  
WEDNESDAYS 7-8PM  
For Grades 10-12



Special thanks to you reFUELers that helped lead the 8<sup>th</sup> grade event with us last week!

1/31: Social Media discussion

2/7: Joining 9th Grade small group sessions

2/14: Ash Wednesday, no reFUEL



### Pre-Gathering Retreat

**Update:** Feb. 9-10. Event will take place at the Best Western Premier Hotel in Oshkosh. Please watch email for more details on transportation and packing list!

### ELCA Youth Gathering Brunch:

TODAY! Jan. 28 10:30-11:30am  
in DS Youth Room

### Next fundraiser:

Annual Meeting Soup Lunch  
and Scrip Sale Feb. 11

Electronic sign-ups for the  
upcoming fundraisers have  
been emailed to you.

Questions, please contact  
Heidi (hschreiner@felc.com).

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*

*-Philippians 4:4-7*

Jan. 28, 2018



Information for FELC Youth and Families  
Grades K-12

## FELC SKI TRIP AT NORDIC MOUNTAIN

### For Grades 9-12

### Saturday, Feb. 17

### Registrations in Gathering Area or on the FELC YOUTH Facebook page, due Feb. 3

\$30 for Ticket

Bring \$20 for skis/snowboard rental, \$8 meal

Free bus transportation!

#shredthegnar #winteronesie

#wolfpack



### 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



### Communion Class Is Filling Up

If you have a student grade 2 or higher that is ready to learn about and receive this sacrament, please register in advance at [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms).

This class is on Mar. 12 from 6-8 p.m. for students & parents at the Downtown Site.



### 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](http://www.felc.com/forms) and check under Resources for the most recent Pastor Chat sheet.



### HAVE A 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADER HEADING TO CONFIRMATION IN THE FALL?

If you do and you missed the Welcome to Confirmation meeting last Wednesday contact Kirsten Owens at [kowens@felc.com](mailto:kowens@felc.com) for the necessary info. There are some important deadlines as early as Mar. 2.

**WE GOTTA KEEP  
MOVING FORWARD!**

### No Kid's Life This Week

Since many of the attendees have older siblings in the Confirmation program, The Kid's Life schedule mirrors the Confirmation schedule. Confirmation is off-site this week and there is no Kid's Life but we meet again on Feb. 7.

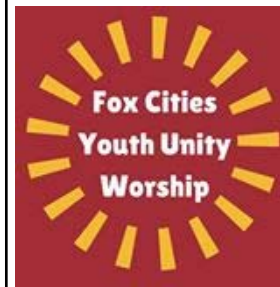
### Choir Corner No Cherub Choir rehearsal today.



Angelus  
Choir  
meets as  
usual.



## Confirmation and Middle School Scoop

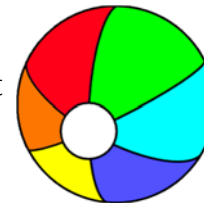


### All Confirmation Students Are Headed to Unity Worship this Wednesday!

We will meet at Radisson Paper Valley Hotel at 6:15 p.m. The event ends at 8 p.m. Families are responsible for transportation to and from the event. Please pick up and drop off at the main entrance. Some small groups are meeting prior or after the event for dinner, coffee, or treats. Contact your small group leader if you need info. Please bring a few dollars for the freewill offering for Fox Valley Jail Ministries. No Confirmation sessions will happen Downtown.

Save the Date for  
The Pool Paaarrtttaayy!  
The end-of-year Confirmation pool party is set for Tuesday, Jun. 19 from 8:30-10:30 p.m. at Mead Pool. All

Confirmation students are invited to attend. R.S.V.P. at [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms). The snack sign up is on that page too.



### What's CYG Up To This Week?



Confirmation Youth Group will not be meeting this week. Be on the lookout for future announcements to see when this fun group meets again. Questions, contact Hannah Sprenger at [hsprenger@felc.com](mailto:hsprenger@felc.com).

**9<sup>th</sup> Graders - Don't Forget  
Confirmation forms are  
due Feb. 7!**

Have questions or want to volunteer?  
Contact Kirsten Owens at [kowens@felc.com](mailto:kowens@felc.com) or 733-2303.



## FELC DS Engage Page: Epiphany 4, January 28, 2018

**Mark 1:21-28** *They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching -- with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.*

Sun, Jan. 28: Family Project: What does it mean to have authority? Think about police officers. What gives them their authority and over what areas do they have authority? What about teachers? Pastors? People in government? How do you feel about people who are in authority? Ask your kids what position of authority they would like to have and why. Would they rather be a president of a company or the President of the United States? Why? Then discuss what sort of authority Jesus possessed. Why did people say He spoke as one with authority? Does Jesus have authority in your life?

Mon, Jan. 29: The followers of Jesus say, "*What is this? A new teaching -- with authority!*" One of the signs of the authority that Jesus carried was that even unclean spirits obeyed him. Jesus was able to go into places where evil had power and bring a new word of love, forgiveness, and hope. Today we can let uncertainties paralyze us, afraid that Jesus has no authority in the battle against evil. We can look around and say the battle is too big for us. In truth, evils would never be overcome if everyone acted on this belief. Today, believe in the power of God to overcome the evil you encounter.

Tues, Jan. 30: New teachings are quite often met with resistance, especially if they are from people who traditionally do not have prestige. It is certainly appropriate to give more authority to an expert in matters of our health, investments, or relationships. However, people who take it for granted that they will receive respect are often not as gifted in living a life of genuine service as those who are accustomed to being overlooked. Who are your heroes of faith? Make sure to include those who share forgiveness and grace even when they have not received the same.

Wed, Jan. 31: Isaiah 40:21-31 Sometimes life comes together in touching ways. These verses, assigned for this week in our three year lectionary, were chosen yesterday by a family for the funeral of a long-time member. In describing him, the family paid tribute to his energy level. Into his 90's he would go out and shovel or use the snow blower if his son didn't get there soon enough. He usually worked two jobs, and even recently told a doctor who was asking him how he felt, "You know I'm not in my 80's anymore". How do we rest in the strength of the Lord? How do we mount up with wings like eagles? For this member, the family found a clue in his study—a daily Bible reading guide. He had placed check marks by each of the daily assignments right up until the last weeks of his life. Wait for the Lord, trust in God's word, and strength will be renewed.

Thurs, Feb 1: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c David Limburg informs us that throughout the Biblical era and into the medieval times, ravens were held to be suspect parents, often abandoning their young. "*The notion about the irresponsibility of raven parents persists; in the German language, a mother who abandons young children is called a Rabenmutter (raven mother). Jesus, too, was impressed by the Lord's care for ravens: "Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them" (Luke 12:24)*"\* When family disappoints and parents fail, take comfort in knowing that God hears your cry.

\*Limburg, James, Psalms (Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, 2000) p. 498.

Fri, Feb 2: I Cor. 9:16-23 Paul writes, "*So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.*" I'm pretty sure that any boxing of mine would look a lot like beating the air. I remember my dad saying, "If you hit me, and I find out about it, you will be punished." And although I have certainly punished my body with my sporadic exercise regimen (sporadic meaning mostly nonexistent), I have certainly never displayed enough self-discipline over my body to claim to "enslave it". But I would love to, I long to, have an athletes drive to proclaim the gospel. May each of us be compelled by and enslaved to the Good News.

Sat, Feb 3: Mark 1:29-39 Unlike men who are healed, Simon's mother-in-law immediately gets up to serve others after her healing. Although we can't expect 21st century responses in a 1st century world, we are called to proclaim ways in which this 1st century response is no longer acceptable. For women to be respected, we must realize that women did not simply serve the disciples who followed Jesus, but that, in spite of the ways they internalized their own worth and were treated by contemporaries, women were equal and important disciples—followers of Jesus who sat at his feet, who provided for him, and who watched his execution when others fled.

\*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: Epiphany 5, January 28, 2018

**Mark 1:29-39** *As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.*

**Sun, Jan. 28:** Family Project: Let each family member come up with a problem that they have. Examples might be learning how to do math, getting better at corner kicks for soccer, dealing with a friend who's spreading lies about you, or being bored in class. Then ask them, "Who would you go to for help with this problem? After you come up with "helpers", talk about how the disciples knew to go to Jesus for help when someone was sick. In every situation, besides getting human help, we can cast our cares on Jesus.

**Mon, Jan. 29:** In light of the call stories of the disciples, we may be tempted to think that the call of Jesus is always away from home and the ordinary. But here we are, just a few verses later, with Simon back at home and worried about his mother-in-law. Our entire life can be a dance between competing commitments. However, in a called life, there is only one commitment, and held within that commitment is the flourishing of life for all. We never abandon loved ones—we surrender them and ourselves to Jesus .

**Tues, Jan. 30:** When Jesus takes Simon's mother-in-law by the hand, he models the kind of caring that needs to happen between brothers and sisters in Christ. As long as we are alive, there are apt to be areas of our lives where we need help and areas where we are able to help those in need. Our call is to be open about both! It is just as important to share our needs as it is to share our strength. Be willing to serve and be served by the body of Christ.

**Wed, Jan. 31: Deuteronomy 18:15-20** I get to talk about the 10 Commandments with my 7th grade Confirmation class. The 2nd commandment in Martin Luther's Catechism reads *"You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God."* In his explanation, Luther says, *"We are to fear and love God, so that we do not curse, swear, practice magic, lie, or deceive using God's name..."* Of course we misuse God's name by cursing or swearing, but it is more difficult to think of ways we use God's name to lie or deceive. It became a little clearer to my students when I told them *"God told me you will be punished if you don't give money to church."* Sometimes we are tempted to "prophecy" what we believe should happen instead of listening for God's message. Whenever you speak on behalf of God, make sure speak God's words and not your own desires.

**Thurs, Feb 1: Psalm 111** When the psalmist writes, *"Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them"*(v.2), he is encouraging us to delight in God's works, and also giving us a tool to do so. This psalm is an acrostic. After the first *"Praise the Lord"*, each successive line starts with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This form would help those who were trying to memorize the psalm in its original language. The words of the psalm assure us that studying God's work is a delight and a holy calling. May we seek out the wonders of God's creation and use all our abilities to find new ways to praise God for His works.

**Fri, Feb. 2: I Cor. 8:1-13** How do we treat people who carry differing views of moral Christian behavior? As the early Christians were deciding whether it was moral to eat food sacrificed to idols, Paul wrote, *"we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but loves builds up."* (v.1) Have you ever felt your body responding to having what you consider the moral high ground on an issue? We stretch to our full height and our chest comes out in a physical enactment of looking down on someone. Paul reminds us that everyone "knows" they are right, but our call is to act out of love and not out of self affirming knowledge.

**Sat, Feb. 3: Mark 1:21-28** Twice in this passage, we read Jesus teaches with "authority". I am more likely to concede authority to someone else in an area where I am ignorant and where they don't threaten my expertise. Do you know how to assemble a computer? Then have at it! I am not going to try to usurp your authority. However, if we were discussing Biblical interpretation, I wouldn't back down so quickly. Here in these opening verses, Mark sets up the conflict that would result in Jesus death—between Jesus and his authority from God and the High Priests and Pharisees who did not want to give up earthly power. It's a conflict repeated in my own life whenever I try to hold onto my own authority without prayerfully submitting to God. Pray for a humble and teachable heart.

\*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>