

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).

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 May 13, 2018 At-A-Glance

Sunday, May 13

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

Monday

9 a.m.
5:15 p.m.
8:15 p.m.

Tuesday

6:30 a.m.
5:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
6:45 p.m.

Wednesday

10:30 a.m.
6:15 p.m.
6:30 p.m.

7 p.m.

7 p.m.

Thursday

6 a.m.
9 a.m.
1 p.m.
7 p.m.

Friday

6:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 20

9:15/9:30 a.m.
9:15/9:25 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
Noon

Mother's Day Rose Sale/Scrip Sale - Both Sites

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

Monday Morning Quilters, DS Fellowship Hall
Stephen Ministry, DS Lounge
Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library
Executive Committee, DS Lounge
VSA Choir Spring Concert, DS Sanctuary
Finance Committee, DS 110

Bible Study with Kirsten, DS 110
Wednesday Worship, DS Sanctuary
Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room
NAMI Youth Mental Illness 101, DS Fellowship Hall
reFUEL Grades 10-12, DS Youth Room

Early Risers Women's Bible Study, DS Lounge
Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge
50+ Presentation, DS Fellowship Hall
ATC Open Basketball, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library
Pentecost Sunday, Wear Red
High School Senior Recognition Sunday, Both Sites
Final Day of Sunday School, Both Sites

Adult Forum, DS Lounge/NS Library
Children's Learning Time, DS/NS
Women's Study Group, NS
HS Senior Recognition Lunch, DS 114

DS=Downtown Site
NS=North Site

God's Work. Our Hands.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Sept. 9, for this year's *God's Work. Our Hands.* activity. Throughout summer you will have opportunities to sign up for the project of your choice for you and your family. There will be projects that take place at FELC and some offsite. Besides writing this day on your calendar the planning committee is looking for individuals who may have access to a Thrivent Action Team grant. Learn more at: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/>. The grants can then be used to purchase materials for Sept. 9. Also, do you have ideas for possible projects? These should be geared to area non-profits. Contact Jean Monson at jeanmonson2324@gmail.com with any ideas or questions about the Thrivent Action Teams.



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.

Love Jesus. Live your call.

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

Sunday at FELC

Altar Flowers

The Downtown Site altar flowers are provided by Sarah Long Radloff in memory of Rita Gruentzel and Louise Clark Porter.

The North Site altar flowers are provided with love by Andrew Rusin, Daniel Rusin and Rachel Nutini in honor of Elaine Leigh Giurgiu's baptism and in honor of all the strong women who will support her: her grandmothers, Candy Rusin and Lenuta Giurgiu, her great-grandmothers, Carol Johnson and Helen Rusin, and her mother, Sarah Rusin.

Day on the Mission Field

May 13 is sponsored in honor of Bob Damon's birthday.

Adult Forums

Join us Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Downtown Site Lounge for Adult Forums as we explore some wonderful topics. Learn about the wonderful things that God is doing through ordinary people in the Fox Valley. Please note: Today's forum on Mental Health Awareness will also be presented at the North Site on May 20.

- **Today (Downtown Site) and May 20 (North Site):** Deb Blank - FELC Mental Health Support Team.
- **May 20:** Harriet Redman - Wisconsin, Inc.

Announcements
Week of May 13, 2018

Scrip and Rose Sales TODAY

Students attending the ELCA Youth Gathering are sponsoring two fundraisers for their trip today in the Gathering Area:

- Purchase Scrip cards. Please see the form in today's bulletin. You can also download an order form at www.felc.com/forms. Orders with payment (cash or check) are due to the Church Office by noon tomorrow, Monday, May 14. Orders will be available for pick up next Sunday, May 20.
- Purchase beautiful roses for \$5 each. Please help the students in their cause while putting a smile on your mother's or grandmother's face! This is their final fundraiser for the year and every dollar counts toward helping our kids get to Houston. Thank you!

Looking Ahead

Church Picnic

The Congregational Life Ministry Team invites you to join us for the Church Picnic from 10:15 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 3, at the North Site. Plan on bringing your family and friends to enjoy root beer floats and other picnic fare, games, and inflatables. If you're able to assist in planning or help out on the day of the picnic, please express your interest by signing up in the Gathering Area or by using the link in the form section of our website to access the online signup.

Summer Worship Times at Both Sites

This summer worship schedule begins on the weekend of Memorial Day and ends on Rally Sunday/God's Work. Our Hands Sunday, Sept. 9. First English will return to its regular worship schedule on Sunday, Sept. 16.

The summer worship schedule is as follows, beginning May 27:

- Sunday, Downtown Site: 8:30 and 10 a.m.
- Sunday, North Site: 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, North Site: 6:15 p.m., May 30 - Aug. 29 (led by summer interns June 6 - Aug. 15)

Youth Mental Illness 101 Isn't Just For Parents

On Wednesday, May 16 from 7-8 p.m. in the Downtown Site Fellowship Hall we will be offering a Youth Mental Illness 101 presentation by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Even if you do not have school-aged children this information can be very helpful especially if you provide care or work in a profession that includes youth. Much of the information also applies to adults as well. In this presentation we will answer the basic questions: What is mental illness? What is mental health? This is a 50 minute overview of mental illness and its impact, treatment, and recovery, the adverse effects of stigma, the importance of advocacy, and the community role of NAMI Fox Valley. Don't miss this valuable, free presentation!

50+ Presentation

Please join the 50+ group on Thursday, May 17, at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a program on the Warming Shelter. One of their staff members will speak on this very necessary service to the homeless in our area. Please bring a personal care item that we can send back to the shelter. Refreshments will be served.

Pentecost Sunday is May 20:

Let's Celebrate with Red Flowers and Garments

Help brighten the Sanctuaries with red geraniums by buying one (or more!), placing them on the table in the Gathering Area by May 18. Following worship on May 20, they will be planted in the church gardens to remind us of the Holy Spirit throughout the summer.

Also, please wear red to worship May 20 to celebrate the fire of the Holy Spirit that comes into our midst at Pentecost. The flames of the Spirit will ignite our hearts and lives once again.

Summer Gardening Project

As mentioned above, the geraniums donated for Pentecost will need to be planted and cared for this summer. FELC is looking for a person or persons who would take on this short-term task. If you like to be outdoors, have a slightly-greenish thumb and take pride in the appearance of our lovely facilities, this may be a fit for you. If you are interested or want to find out more, please contact Kathy Larson at klarson@felc.com.

Financial Peace University

A Biblical approach to budgeting and finances: First English is looking forward to hosting Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University" series on Mondays, beginning June 4, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 114 at the Downtown Site. Financial Peace is a 9-week, life-changing program that empowers and teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God's plan for your life. The course includes practical lessons on eliminating debt, building wealth, giving like never before, and much, much more. This series will be open to the public. The materials fee is \$129/per household. Rick Fifield will be the facilitator for the series. If you are interested, email Rick at rof7915@outlook.com or phone him at (920)209-6618.

VSA Choir Concert

Please join us for the VSA Choir's annual Spring Concert held on Tuesday, May 15, in the Downtown Site Sanctuary. The VSA choir has members with and without disabilities and will present some upbeat and fun songs for spring. FELC has been generous in providing space for our rehearsals and concerts.

Sunday School Has Some Wins

This year Sunday School has undergone some significant changes in format. We have coordinated the curriculum to match the lectionary, included children in the final segment of the 9:15 a.m. worship at the Downtown Site, brought the creativity of storytellers, had all-age Christmas programs, sang, learned, and given parents tools to keep talking about faith in the home. As always, there are portions to tweak but there is a lot to celebrate! The review of attendance sheets shows that unlike past years when participation would gradually and consistently trail off, this year's attendance increased after a deep winter lull. This is good news! See the June newsletter for more on how the changes have been both successful and challenging this year, plus some thoughts on moving forward in religious education.

Electronics Recycling Event

On Saturday, May 19 from 8 a.m.-noon at First Congregational UCC Parking Lot (724 East South River St, Appleton), dropping off nearly all electronics is free except for TVs and computer monitors. All materials are kept in USA. All hard drives are shredded and destroyed. Sponsored by ESTHER. More info: (715)304-7205 or billv@esther-foxvalley.org and <https://estherfoxvalley.org>.

Donate a Piano?

First English is looking for a used piano in good condition for the North Site Lower Level. Contact nbirkholz@felc.com if you have one to donate.

Prayer Connection

Prayer connects us to each other in this community of faith and to Christ. To be included in the list of prayers, submit names to the church office or the First English staff. Names are removed after one month, but can always be extended by request. Please remember these First English members, friends and families in prayer in the coming week:

Prayers of Healing, Wholeness & Peace

- Mary Lou Garnsworthy
- Nathan Meissner
- Brooklyn Ann Converse
- Angel Manos
- Todd Hollenberger
- Jacob Schwab
- Justin Schwab
- Laurie Niles
- Lynn Boenker
- George Krempin
- Debra Boushley
- David Heindel
- Doug Hansen
- Amy Ponomarev
- Moore Peregrine
- Tom Roy
- Je'Ann Johnson
- Paul Henrikson
- Juanita Gauerke
- Robb Schaefer
- Kim Norland
- Taylor Vivian Thompson
- Carol Peterson
- Elaine Gareau
- Bev Hoff
- Sharon Stoike
- Nancy Boettcher
- Ardith Nortman
- Rolf Jeppson

Prayers of Comfort

- Families of:
- Claire Meyer Gallant
 - Kevin Reinholz

Prayers of Thanksgiving

- Baptism of:
- Elaine Leigh Giurgiu
 - Morgan Irene Trost

Prayers for Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- Stephanie Olson

Prayers for Those in the Military

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

This Week's Community Care Focus

• The Building for Kids

Contact: Jill Steif; volunteer@buildingforkids.org
(920)734-3226 ext. 10



High School Youth News

Grades 9-12

May 13, 2018

THANK YOU MOMS!

Senior Recognition Sunday is next Sunday, May 20!

Support your senior speakers sharing their faith journey at FELC and how this church family has impacted them over the years. Special speakers include: Krista Forseth, Livy Jones, Abby Laumer, Jared Schmid, Anna Schmidt, and Kent Van Beek

**Senior Recognition Sunday Lunch to follow:
Sunday, May 20, 12-1pm DS Room 114**

reFUEL

DS Youth Room
WEDNESDAYS 7-8 P.M.
For 9-12 Grade Students
Friends are always welcome!

May 16: Final reFUEL before the FELC Summer Interns
May 23: No reFUEL
May 30: No reFUEL
June 6: reFUEL at NS with the FELC Summer Interns



ELCA Youth Gathering Updates

May Calendar

Sunday, May 13: Mother's Day Rose Sale and Scrip Sale Sunday
Sunday, May 20: Scrip Distribution



Summer Interns are looking for Cabin Helpers for this year's Day Camp!

The Camp runs June 11-14 from 9:30am-3pm at Plamann Park. Please contact Heidi Schreiner if you are interested in giving back to this awesome ministry
hschreiner@felc.com

May 13, 2018



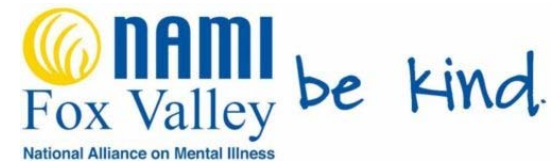
Information for FELC Youth and Families
Grades K-12

All Are Welcome & Encouraged To Attend Youth Mental Illness 101 On May 16

We will be hosting a NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) presentation entitled, Youth Mental Illness 101, on May 16 from 7-8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at the Downtown Site. This presentation will help us answer these basic questions: What is mental illness? What is mental health? It is an informative, 50-minute presentation which provides an overview of mental illness and its impact, treatment and recovery, the adverse effects of stigma, the importance of advocacy, and NAMI Fox Valley's role in the community to educate, support and empower those affected by mental illness. All

are warmly encouraged to attend this free program.

Let's learn together!



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



Hey, Hey, Hey... Next Sunday's the Last Day

We have more hours of light, more outdoor activities, and the season of Easter is over this week. Pentecost is next Sunday and it is also our last day of Sunday School! Before we pack it up, don't forget this Sunday and next to thank your teachers, storytellers, song leaders, Christmas program participants, and pastors. Don't forget to thank other parents and members of the congregation (in Sunday School we high-five and say, "I am SO glad you are HERE!")

True to our baptismal promise, we are pulling together as a community and raising our kids in the way of Christ. It's a team effort where we are both responsible to and joyfully serving one another and the world as fellow believers!

June 3 Is a Great Day To CHURCH PICNIC!!!

From 10:15 a.m. -
1:00 p.m. at the North
Site we will be playing
games, enjoying
conversation, and
having a fun at the
Church Picnic. Families,
and kids in particular,
love
this
annual
event
so don't
miss it!



Are You Ready For The Summer?

FELC summer activities are open
for registration. Go to
www.felc.com/summer to
sign-up. Don't miss all the
summer fun!

Get RED-dy for Pentecost!

On Pentecost we put up red banners and wear red as we remember Jesus ascending into heaven. Don't forget to wear red next Sunday!



Confirmation and Middle School Scoop



Fill That Summer Calendar With All The FELC Good Stuff!



Summer is one of the best times to hang with your FELC squad. Head to the Confirmation pool party (sign-up at

www.felc.com/forms) or make at splash at Noah's Ark! Learn how to play a new instrument or get your creative juices flowing during Art Week. Hang out with friends at Middle School Youth Group or around a campfire during Wednesday night reFUEL.

The summer is full of possibilities so go to www.felc.com/summer to have a summer filled to the brim with the good stuff!



Don't Run Out of Gas When You Can reFUEL!

For 9th graders there are no more Wednesday night Confirmation classes but there's a lot of fun to fill up on in reFUEL from 7-8 p.m. in the Downtown Site Youth Room. Don't miss the fun!



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

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, May 14**, will be available for pick up on **Sunday, May 20**.

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.

FELC NS Engage Page: Easter 6, May 13, 2018

John 15:9-17 *“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”*

Sun, May 13: Family Project: What does it mean for you to abide in the love of your family or caregivers here on earth. How does that compare with abiding in the love of your heavenly Father? Talk about how it feels to know that you are loved. What is the sort of fruit or results that come from a family that loves one another? How does that love bless society? Make a picture of your family and lift up each person, sharing a symbol or word to describe the unique thing that you find abiding in their love. (For one it might be total acceptance, another might help you find confidence in your abilities.)

Mon, May 14: I have to question the logic of the phrase *“You are my friends if you do what I command you.”* If a “friend” of mine were to say that to me, I would be thinking, “I’ll pass on that kind of friendship.” But what if the stakes were so high and the logic so inescapable that disobedience would result in death. We are like guides on the underground railroad who have been commanded to follow a certain path to lead others to freedom. Sharing the loving heart of the Father, as friends of Jesus we must do as He commands.

Tues, May 15: In a world filled with violence and abuse, how do we walk in the light of God’s love? How do we love one another? Certainly if we make Christianity a competition in proper theology, and pursue a false holiness isolates us from others, we miss the point. The point here is love—learning how to love neighbors by abiding in the Father’s love. If God’s love is our holy habitation, we can avoid the competitive spirit, jealousies, and judgmental attitudes that mar our witness and our relationships.

Wed., May 16, Acts 2:1-21, Aaron Douglas Awareness is a challenging, yet rewarding, state of being. I recently was able to attempt surfing for the first time. Being aware of coming waves, rocks, other surfers or even sea lions was a must. Once atop a wave, all that vigilance provided such exhilaration. When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, there was that moment of confusion and uncertainty. What was happening? Violent winds, tongues of fire, different languages? It wasn’t Wisconsin, but still they must be drunk! Thankfully Peter, aware of Joel’s prophecy, lends context to the situation. Now that we are aware of the Holy Spirit’s presence in our lives, how can we allow ourselves to be open to the nuanced guidance God can offer? May our awareness be turned into praise, thanksgiving and action. Ride that wave!

Thurs, May 17, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Rudi Pakendorf This is a wonderful, rich, joy-filled text. It might even inspire us sober Lutherans respond like King David - see 2 Samuel 6: 14, 15 - leaping about, dancing, praising God! God created everything (see Genesis chapters 1 & 2) and here the psalmist reacts with great joy as he takes in that wonder. That same Spirit that hovered over the barren earth at Creation, is as active today creating wonderful things. That includes you and me: we are made new through the life-giving death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. A daily reading to celebrate the joy of being alive in God’s love – and to find that in all of God’s other creations (people included!) you meet every day! God in us – come, Holy Spirit!

Fri, May 18, Rom. 8:22-27, Aaron Douglas Admittedly, I only have secondhand knowledge of the groans of childbirth. I have had the blessing of attending many deliveries, and must say that the groans (*or more!*) can be quite varied. They make my selfish groans seem minuscule. Paul writes of the whole creation groaning as in childbirth, another timeless reference still relevant today. We all groan daily. However, despite these groans, we have hope for the future through the Holy Spirit. Even when the right words or the right prayer escape us, we are comforted to know that the gift of the Spirit intercedes on our part. The challenge lies in calming our minds, quieting our groans, and recognizing God’s hope, comfort and presence that comes at Pentecost.

Sat, May 19, John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15, Rudi Pakendorf Here Jesus encourages His disciples (and us!) the night before his crucifixion:

- 1.) Remain in me (chap. 15) - read from the beginning of the chapter and circle the word “remain” (NIV version) - we need to get over ourselves and focus on Christ!
- 2.) I will send my Spirit to dwell in you and guide you (chap. 15: 26, 27; chap. 16). The Holy Spirit will draw us to Jesus – enabling us to fully understand how much God loves us, to love others and to share the Good News with them.
- 3.) Be confident! (16:33) - “I have told you these things, so that you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (also read Joshua chapter 1).

*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>

FELC DS Engage Page: Easter 7, May 13, 2018

John 17:6-19 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Sun, May 13: Family Project: What does Jesus pray about for his disciples? He prays that they would be one (unified), that God would protect them from the evil one, and that they would be made holy by God's word. Which of these do you struggle with the most and why? Make a prayer page, drawing or writing out which of these prayers you want to pray and have others pray for you this week.

Mon, May 14: Be encouraged by the extravagant giving in this passage. First God gives people the knowledge that they belong to Jesus –we are given identity. Then God gives knowledge of God's name –we are upheld by the power of the one who breathed creation into being. Finally, we are given knowledge of the Word. We find meaning in the awareness of what God calls us to do in life.

Tues, May 15: When Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray, he gives them the Lord's Prayer. But this passage shows us how Jesus prays *for* his disciples. If you are feeling overwhelmed by situations in the world, take comfort that Jesus prays on our behalf –that we might know the truth, that we might be united, that we are sent into the world, and that we are protected.

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Thurs, May 17, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Rudi Pakendorf This is a wonderful, rich, joy-filled text. It might even inspire us sober Lutherans respond like King David - see 2 Samuel 6: 14, 15 - leaping about, dancing, praising God! God created everything (see Genesis chapters 1 & 2) and here the psalmist reacts with great joy as he takes in that wonder. That same Spirit that hovered over the barren earth at Creation, is as active today creating wonderful things. That includes you and me: we are made new through the life-giving death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. A daily reading to celebrate the joy of being alive in God's love – and to find that in all of God's other creations (people included!) you meet every day! God in us – come, Holy Spirit!

Fri, May 18, Rom. 8:22-27, Aaron Douglas Admittedly, I only have secondhand knowledge of the groans of childbirth. I have had the blessing of attending many deliveries, and must say that the groans (*or more!*) can be quite varied. They make my selfish groans seem minuscule. Paul writes of the whole creation groaning as in childbirth, another timeless reference still relevant today. We all groan daily. However, despite these groans, we have hope for the future through the Holy Spirit. Even when the right words or the right prayer escape us, we are comforted to know that the gift of the Spirit intercedes on our part. The challenge lies in calming our minds, quieting our groans, and recognizing God's hope, comfort and presence that comes at Pentecost.

Sat, May 19, John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15, Rudi Pakendorf Here Jesus encourages His disciples (and us!) the night before his crucifixion:

1.) Remain in me (chap. 15) - read from the beginning of the chapter and circle the word "remain" (NIV version) - we need to get over ourselves and focus on Christ!
2.) I will send my Spirit to dwell in you and guide you (chap. 15: 26, 27; chap. 16). The Holy Spirit will draw us to Jesus – enabling us to fully understand how much God loves us, to love others and to share the Good News with them.
3.) Be confident! (16:33) - "I have told you these things, so that you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (also read Joshua chapter 1).

*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>