

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) and the North Site Nursery (off the main hallway, across from the restrooms) are open for family use during all services. Please ask an usher if you need 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

At the Downtown Site, if you are in need of a large print Bible or bulletin, please ask an usher.

AED Units on Site

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

Video Recording

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

In Need of Prayer?

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

More Information

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

The Week of Nov. 25, 2018 At-A-Glance

Sunday, Nov. 25

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

Monday

9 a.m. Quilters, DS Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Griefshare, DS Lounge
8:15 p.m. Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Men's Ministry, NS Library
6:30 p.m. Congregation Council, NS Library
8 p.m. ATC Basketball, NS Activity Center

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 110
Noon Noon Hour Philosophers, DS Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room
6:15 p.m. Wednesday Worship, DS Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room & Sanctuary
7 p.m. Confirmation General Session All Grades, DS
7 p.m. Kid's Life, DS 014
7 p.m. refuel (grades 10-12), DS Youth Room

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Sunday, Dec. 2

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

DS=Downtown Site
NS=North Site



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.

Announcements
Week of Nov. 25, 2018

Love Jesus. Live your call.

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

Sunday at FELC

Altar Flowers

The Downtown Site Altar Flowers are provided by the Gebert Family in memory of Francile Stidham.

Engage Page/Advent Devotional

Thanks to all who follow the Engage Page insert. During Advent, instead of Engage Page devotions, we will use the Advent Devotional booklet written by people from our congregation and available online (www.felc.com/forms) and in the Gathering Area. Look for the return of the Engage Page insert on Sunday, Dec. 30.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing Red Kettle Campaign

Sign up for FELC Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army at the table in the Gathering Area for the following dates/times (locations vary):

- Saturday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 10 from 4-8 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 12 from 6-8 p.m.

Some Confirmation students will be ringing bells on Wednesday, Dec. 12, their service night. Please consult your small group leader for more information. Thank you.

Advent Wreath Lighting

Light the Advent wreath candles during worship this Advent season! This is a wonderful activity for individuals and families alike, and a great reminder of our Lord's birth and what it means to be a child of God. There will be wreath lighting at all regular services on Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23. Visit the table in the Gathering Area to sign up. Help make sure all slots are filled this year!

Stewardship Appeal



We extend deep gratitude to all the households who have participated in the *Imagine the Impact 2019* campaign. If you've not yet made a commitment, please join all the persons who did, so that our response to *Imagine the Impact 2019* will reflect the best effort of our congregation. Together, we can make a significant difference that will touch many lives with the good news of Jesus Christ for generations to come. Statement of Intent cards have been mailed to those who have yet to complete a card and they are also available online or in the Gathering Area. Please be mindful of the amazing challenge gift that has been offered - if 380 cards are returned, an additional gift of \$5,000 will be contributed to the campaign. We hope you will join us in making a commitment to the success of the campaign. Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of Jesus Christ!

Looking Ahead

Advent Vespers

Wednesday, Dec. 5 at the Downtown Site

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

FELC Employment Opportunity: New Member Host

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

Submit your cover letter and resume to bsmongeski@felc.com or mail to the Church Office at 326 E. North St., Appleton, WI, 54911. Have questions? Call Pastor Mary in the Church Office (733-2303).

Save the Date: Honey Sale

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

VSA Choir Christmas Concert

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

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

Submit "Can't Serve" Dates for Worship Volunteering

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

Summer Intern Application

The 2019 Summer Intern applications are open and available online at www.felc.com/forms. If you know of anyone who is at least one year out of high school between the ages of 19-25 and wants to grow in Christian leadership skills, serve the community, and grow in faith, this is the perfect opportunity. This is a paid 12-week internship beginning in late May and ending in mid-August. Please contact Heidi Schreiner at hschreiner@felc.com with questions.

Appleton Visually Impaired Support Group

Learn how to live with vision loss from others who have been there. Discover different methods to accomplish those activities that are important to you. Don't give up - find a new way to do things. The Appleton Visually Impaired Support Group encourages folks to look at visual impairment as a new beginning. Anyone interested in this topic is encouraged to learn more by visiting our Facebook Page at Appleton Visually Impaired Support Group; our website (<https://sites.google.com/view/aplvisuallyimpaired/>); or contacting the group leader, Daphne, at (920)955-3776 or dkennett@att.net. We hope to see you at one of our monthly meetings.

Noon Hour Philosophers, Fall, 2018

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

• Nov. 28: Why Public Art Matters: A Call to Arms

Rob Nielson, Frederick Art Layton Professor of Art and Associate Professor at Lawrence University

• Dec. 5: Living a Philosophical Life

Father Patrick Twomey, Episcopal Priest

GriefShare

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

Operation Christmas

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

Prayer Connection

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

Prayers of Healing, Wholeness & Peace

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

Prayers of Comfort Families of:

- Don Albrecht
- Tresor Chillagen
- Norma Gehring
- Martin Much
- Tom Roy
- Todd Schink

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Baptism of:

- Jordy John Simonson

Prayers for Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

- Stephanie Olson

Prayers for Those in the Military

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

This Week's Community Care Focus

• Goodwill

jlammers@goodwillncw.org; (920)968-6872



High School Youth News

Grades 9-12

Nov. 25, 2018



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

11/28: *FRIENDSGIVING*

Three years ago we began a new tradition of celebrating Thanksgiving as a church family at **refuel**. Please consider bringing your favorite Thanksgiving dish to share, and of course, friends are always welcome! Come hungry!

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

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



High School Mission Trip Blue Ridge Mountains, NC

Upcoming important dates
for Mission Trip
participants:

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

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

Sign up to volunteer at
www.felc.com/highschool.

Searching for youth musicians - vocal or instrumental



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

Nov. 28, 2018



Information for FELC Youth and Families
Grades K-12

Celebrate the FELC Advent Vespers Tradition

For the last few years at First English we have had a wonderful tradition of beginning Advent with a reading of a story and singing songs that exemplify the spirit of the season. On Wednesday, Dec. 5, we come together as a congregation to enjoy a freewill offering chicken dinner and arts and crafts, followed by worship.

Dinner begins at 4:45 p.m., games start around 5 p.m. and the Advent Vespers service is from 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the Downtown Site Sanctuary. Confirmation families are asked to attend as part of the curriculum and high school students are asked to help with the arts and crafts.

Any and all are warmly encouraged to attend this annual event as we enter a season of hope!



Find us on Social Media Outlets

Instagram: felc.youth Facebook: FELC YOUTH

Connect with FELC Youth Staff

Kirsten Owens, Faith Formation Coordinator: kowens@felc.com
Heidi Schreiner, Youth & Summer Ministry Coordinator: hschreiner@felc.com

Love Jesus. Live your call.



Elementary Sunday School, Song, And Special News



Confirmation and Middle School Scoop



Fox Valley Humane Society Sweeps The Sunday School Vote!

Last week we announced the results of the Sunday School vote at each site. Both sites chose Fox Valley Humane Association as their top pick for their stewardship focus this year! We set a goal of \$200 per site (this was set based on the \$170 giving achieved during the four days of VBS this past summer). If the kids exceed this goal additional proceeds will be given to their second choice—at the Downtown Site this was ELCA Hurricane Relief and at the North Site it was the Wounded Warrior Project. We will be collecting contributions during the large group assembly at the beginning of Sunday School each week and our 5th & 6th grade classes will be counting, tracking, and announcing our progress. You can use giving envelopes if you like but they are not necessary. The size of the contribution each week isn't as important as working together as a faith family to give to others in our community. At the end of the school year we will be celebrating the spirit of service to others!

Kid's Life During December

Kid's Life meets one more time in Nov. on the 28th and twice in Dec. on the 12th and 19th. On Dec. 5 we encourage families to attend Advent Vespers activities. On Dec. 26 there is no meeting due to Christmas break.



Choir Corner

No Choir rehearsals this week.
Angelus sings Dec. 5 at 6:15 p.m. for Advent Vespers and again on Dec. 9 at 8 a.m.
Cherub sings Dec. 9 at 9:15 a.m.



Thank You, LORD!

*No Sunday School This Week
Prayers of thanks for having
you in our faith family!*



LARGE GROUP THIS WEEK 7TH & 8TH GRADE FAMILIES SHOULD READ CHAPTER 5 PRIOR TO WEDNESDAY.

9TH GRADE, THIS WILL
BE THE FINAL FAITH ON TRIAL FOR
STUDENTS & PARENTS.

Keep An Eye On These Dates

- | Dec. 5-Advent Vespers Family Attendance Night
Worship is from 6:15-7:15 p.m.,
Chicken dinner & games 4:45-6:15 p.m., DS
Worship is considered a Confirmation
class to be attended as family
- | Dec 12-Advent Soup Dinner & Worship
4:45 p.m. dinner, 6:15 p.m.
worship, DS CONFIRMATION SERVICE NIGHT
- | Dec. 19-Christmas parties
- | Dec. 26-No class. Christmas
break.



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

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



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

FELC DS Engage Page: Nov. 25, 2018—Christ the King

John 18:33-37 *Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."*

Sun, Nov. 25: Family Project: In all the Disney movies and stories that we read, kings can be either good or bad. The good kings always rule in a way that benefits the people. They are kind and honorable. Today we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, emphasizing the way that Christ rules. Jesus says he *"came into the world to testify to the truth."* What are some of the things that our King Jesus would say as a decree? Create a processional, complete with fanfares, and shout out, *"Hear ye! Hear ye! The king has a decree."* Each person can take a turn proclaiming important truths from Jesus.

Mon, Nov. 26: Professor Lucy Lind Hogan teaches, *"In 1925, Pope Pius XI instituted a new liturgical observance, the Feast of Christ the King. The Pope felt that the followers of Christ were being lured away by the increasing secularism of the world. They were choosing to live in the "kingdom" of the world rather than in the reign of God. Therefore, as we prepare to begin a new church year with the First Sunday of Advent, the coming of Jesus, not only in Bethlehem, but the second coming as well, we pause and reflect upon who Jesus the Christ is in our lives."* As you get ready for Christmas, take time to wonder what it means to have Christ and not the world reign in your life.

http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3885

Tues, Nov. 27: From the beginning of this gospel, John has been letting us know that Jesus is King. In John 1:49, Nathaniel proclaims, *"Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel."* However, the gospel goes on to describe a king who rejects the pull of power and asserts his reign by speaking, *"to the lowly and the rejected. This is a king who serves rather than being served. This is a king who enters the holy city, not triumphantly on a horse, but seated on a donkey* (John 12:14). Jesus rejects political power and all the ways humanity perverts the use of power. May we do the same.

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Wed., Nov. 28, Jeremiah 33:14-16 The prophecy declares that the Lord *"will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line."* I love watching for the first signs of spring each year when I go out in my perennial garden. Life wins out as the canes swell and new possibilities emerge. Last spring, I got over-anxious about my hydrangeas, thinking that the dead canes needed to be removed. Unfortunately, my chance for any blossoms were cut away with those ugly, dead-looking canes! Come July, I had gorgeous greenery –but no flowers. So often in our own lives, also, it is the experiences and struggles that have left us feeling spent and dead that God is able to use to bring blessings to others. If you are feeling lifeless, take comfort in knowing God is at work bringing forth life in you!

Thurs, Nov. 29, Psalm 25:1-10 As sunflowers lift their heads to follow the path of the sun, this psalm reminds us to lift our souls, our very being, to follow our Lord. Throughout the day, we open our hearts to hear God's guidance. We do not do this to become holier and more unapproachable to those around us, but rather to let grace grow in our lives. This grace certainly benefits others, but it also heals us when we sin or feel the sting of failure. Each moment is a new opportunity to lift our souls to God, to experience forgiveness and love, and to pass it along.

Fri., Nov. 30, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 What a wonder it is to be part of a community where people *"abound in love for one another."* The times that I have experienced this type of love, have usually been preceded by the difficult work of getting to know others, accepting their quirks, giving and asking for forgiveness, and being transparent in my shortcomings and my strengths. Ego takes a second seat as we refuse to give in to the incessant human penchant for ranking people according to faith or talents. May we pray with Paul that God would strengthen our *"hearts in holiness"*, teaching us to create community than abound in love.

Sat, Dec. 1, Luke 21:25-36 Jesus warns us to *"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap."* (v.34) We can allow worry to become a way of life. Worry is mistaken for proof of our love. However, when worry takes root, it grows in our lives like an invasive weed that spreads seeds of anxiety. This passage paints the picture of something that is truly worth worrying about –the end of life on earth as we know it. But in the midst of the chaos we are challenged to *"stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."* (v.28) Take time each day, in the midst of your worries, to lift your head and realize that your Salvation, your Lord, is very near.

*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: Nov. 25, 2018—Christ the King

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Wed., Nov. 28, Malachi 3:1-4 There is something of a contradiction within these verses. The Lord is sending *"the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight."* This covenant with the people of Israel is the law, a gift to the people and also a demand on them. Then there is a change. In speaking of this messenger, the Lord says, *"Who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire..."* (v.2) If we have made a promise to someone to do something and have procrastinated, we start to avoid their company. We don't want to be reminded of what we have failed to do. There is no way to avoid failure when it comes to upholding the law. So we give thanks that after the messenger of the law comes the messenger of salvation—our Lord Jesus!

Thurs, Nov. 29, Luke 1:68-79 Zechariah had been struck mute when he questioned the Lord's ability to give a child to him and his wife. How blessed that his first words would after his time of silence would be this beautiful song of praise to God for sending the Messiah. Spend some time in intentional silence today, and break your fast from words with this portion of scripture. *"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."* (v.78-79)

Fri., Nov. 30, Philippians 1:3-11 There are days when faith comes easy, and then days when it seems as though I have the same struggles that I did when I was in high school. I would like my faith story to have an uphill trajectory, where I am always growing closer to God. Unfortunately, when I look back, moments of great faith are inevitably followed by questions and doubts. It's then that this passage brings comfort. I trust that *"the one who began a good work"* in me *"will be faithful to complete it"*. God is doing something good in my life. I may not always feel victorious, but I know that God is working good—for me and for others.

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Christmas Poinsettias and Greenery



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

Return this order form with your payment of \$12 for each plant or greenery item ordered
to the offering plate or the church office.

Payments may be made by check or online at www.felc.com and each will be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletin.
The deadline to order is Monday, Dec. 17.

YOUR NAME _____

IN HONOR OF _____

or

IN MEMORY OF _____

\$12 x _____ (Poinsettias) \$12 _____ (Greenery Items) Amount due: \$ _____

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



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