

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 8:30 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 Oct. 7, 2018 At-A-Glance

Sunday, Oct. 7

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

Monday

9 a.m.
1 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
8:15 p.m.

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

7 p.m.
7 p.m.

Thursday

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

Friday

6:30 a.m.
8 a.m.

Saturday

8 a.m.
Sunday, Oct. 14
8:50 a.m.
9:15 a.m.
9:15/9:25 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
3:30 p.m.

New Member Sunday

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

Quilters, DS Fellowship Hall
Intern Enrichment Ministry Team, DS Lounge
Griefshare, DS 221
Pick Up Basketball, NS Activity Center

Men's Ministry, NS Library
Ministry Fall Kickoff Celebration, DS 110-113
Congregational Life Ministry Team, DS 115
Library Committee, DS Library
Men's Ministry, DS 221
Worship & Music Ministry Team, DS Lounge
Youth Connections Ministry Team, DS 220
ATC Basketball, NS Activity Center

Bible Study with Pastor Mary, DS 221
Noon Hour Philosophers, DS Fellowship Hall
Sarah Circle, DS 114
Stewardship Committee, DS Lounge
Miriam Circle, DS Library
Handbell Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room
Wednesday Worship, DS Sanctuary
Parish Choir Rehearsal, DS Choir Room & Sanctuary
Confirmation General Session All Grades,
DS Assigned Rooms & Sanctuary
Kids Life, DS 014
refuel Grades 10-12, DS Youth Room

Early Risers Women's Study, DS Lounge
Adult Bible Study, DS Lounge
Bridge Group, DS 114

Men's Ministry, NS Library

LWR Trailer Load, NS Parking Lot

Cherub/Angelus Rehearsal, DS 220/Choir Room
Adult Learning Time, DS Lounge
Children's Learning Time, DS/NS
Women's Study Group, NS Library
Ukulele Combo Rehearsal, NS Sanctuary
Inside Out Viewing, NS Theater Room

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 Oct. 7, 2018

Love Jesus. Live your call.

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

Sunday at FELC

TV Ministry

Oct. 7 is sponsored by Merlin and Joan Keller in honor of their 54th wedding anniversary on Oct. 3.

Equal Exchange Coffee Project

When having a cup of coffee, give some thought to the plight of the small farmers who produce it. Equal Exchange cuts out the middlemen and provides you fresh coffee. By always paying a fair price to the farmer co-ops, EE helps build and protect sustainable farming communities. We are selling fairly traded coffee, tea and cocoa today in the Gathering Area. Thank you for your support.

Looking Ahead

Boy Scout Troop 12 Fundraisers

- **Monday, Oct. 8 - Tom's Drive-In (701 E. Wisconsin Ave, Appleton):** Mention "BSA Troop 12" between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. The troop will receive a percentage of the sales.
- **Sunday, Oct. 21 and 28 - Wreath Sale:** The Troop will have a table set up for orders at both sites after all services. Pick up is expected at the church location where you purchased on Sunday, Nov. 25.

Open Nursery Positions (Paid)

FELC is looking to fill three paid nursery positions: Sunday morning and occasional evening childcare at both sites, and a Nursery Coordinator to oversee the schedule at both sites. Contact Brenda (bsmongeski@felc.com or 733-2303) if you are interested or would like more information.

GriefShare

GriefShare is a nation-wide ministry that helps people deal with the death of a loved one. This 12-week video curriculum includes discussion time allowing people to share their own experiences with grief. The fall session began on Monday, Oct. 1, and you are welcome to come at any time in the curriculum. For more information or to purchase the workbook, please connect with Pastor Mary. Sessions are on Monday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. in Downtown Site Room 221.

Celebration of Another Season of Ministry

A Ministry Teams/Volunteers Fall Kickoff Celebration will take place Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 6 p.m. in Rooms 110-113 at the Downtown Site. This pizza buffet celebration will give members of our ministry teams, standing committees, Congregation Council and other volunteer teams time together to celebrate the start of another exciting season of ministry. A short program will be presented after which we encourage teams and committees to hold their own meetings. Breakout rooms will be available. Please RSVP to Kathy, klarson@felc.com or call the Church Office.

Some Sincere Thanks

- **To the Men's Ministry Groups:** Thank you for teaming up and providing monthly free lunches to the community in the *Seeds of Grace* Learning Garden at the Downtown Site. The lunches were funded by donations from the groups, a *Love Jesus. Live your call.* grant and Thrivent Action Team grants. Festival Foods also donated a \$50 gift card. The men worked tirelessly to provide a delicious meal and a warm, welcoming environment to all. Over 300 meals were served from May through September. What a shining example of loving Jesus and living their call!
- **From the FELC High School Youth:** Thank you so much for supporting the weekend full of fundraisers for our high school youth attending the mission trip to NC this summer. With *License to Cruise* parking, *Octoberfest* parking, and the Bake Sale, we were able to raise over \$2150! We hope to continue this success in the upcoming SCRIP Sale (Oct. 11) and Honey Sale (Dec. 9 and 16).

LWR Trailer Load

On Saturday, Oct. 13 at 8 a.m. at the North Site, help load the trailers with the Lutheran World Relief quilts and kits that have been created this past year. They will be distributed to people in need throughout the world. Students grade 11 and up, and adults are encouraged to help, along with students in grades 7-10 if accompanied by a parent. Note: the busiest time where help is needed the most is 8-9:30 a.m. Added incentive: treats provided! Sign up at www.felc.com/forms.

Mental Illness Q&A with Dr. Doug

Sunday Adult Forum (Oct. 14, 9:15 a.m., Downtown Site, and Oct. 21, 9:25 a.m., North Site). Bring your questions and concerns to this forum led by First English member Doug Moard, M.D. This is an event hosted by our congregation's team committed to awareness and hope for mental health.

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes Vacation - Sports - Quilt Auction Sunday, Oct. 14 , 2 p.m. Riverview Gardens, 1101 S. Oneida St. Appleton

Hor d'oeuvres Served
Cash Bar
No Charge to Attend!

Auction items include: beautiful
handmade quilts, Packers tickets,
golf certificates, vacations to Door County,
New York City, Los Cabos and more!

Preview auction items at www.fvlh.org.

This Day Forward

One of four screenings in Wisconsin: See the movie *This Day Forward* on Tuesday, Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m. at the Downtown Site. Producer/director Brian Ide will be present to introduce the film which revolves around how our faith and lives are challenged when we face the "unimaginable." It does not offer easy, clean answers, but does assert that faith and hope are key.

Planned Giving Conversations

On Thursday, Oct. 18 at 12:30 p.m. (repeated at 5:30 p.m.), Tim Knutson will lead a Planned Giving conversation on the topic of *Leaving a Legacy for Ministry*. This dessert discussion will cover how to plan for family, how to remember the church in your plans, what details are most often overlooked, and when is the right time to make plans.

Tim Knutson is the Regional Gift Planner with the ELCA Foundation for the state of Wisconsin. He works with congregations to strengthen their ministry funding plans, and individuals who wish to leave a legacy gift to their church.

Please contact Brenda at (920)733-2303 or visit www.felc.com/forms to register.

Noon Hour Philosophers, Fall, 2018

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.

Oct. 10: Disrupting Dementia - Beyond Being Dementia Friendly

Susan McFadden, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of Psychology, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh
John McFadden, M.Div., trained Minister of JCC, Memory Care Chaplain in Appleton and Neenah.

Fox Cities Area Crop Hunger Walk Sunday, Oct. 14

Memorial Presbyterian Church
803 E College Ave. Appleton, WI

Registration: Noon; Walk Time: 1 p.m.

Walk Distance: 1, 3, and 5 miles

More Information: Register online at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/appletonwi/> and join the First English Lutheran - Appleton team, or stop by the Crop Walk table in the Gathering Area today!

Conversations About Divorce

FELC Caring Ministries Coordinator, Dianne Droster, facilitates a three-week conversation on divorce, beginning Monday, Nov. 5, from 6-7:30 p.m. The conversations will take place off-site, in the Chapel at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 724 East South River St., Appleton. Anyone who has been divorced or is going through a divorce is welcome to attend. This is a safe place to share your experiences of divorce, from difficult days to times of healing - and everything in between - in a supportive, open, accepting and encouraging environment. We will covenant together to keep our conversations honest, candid, and private to the group. Please contact Dianne with any questions or concerns at didroster@gmail.com.

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
- Lynn Boenker
- 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
- Bev Hoff
- Dennis Paisar
- Alex VanMaren
- Sarah Newberry

Prayers of Comfort Families of:

- Fritz Gustav Butke
- Karen Foster
- Nancy Hardt
- Nancy Johnson

Prayers of Thanksgiving Baptism of:

- Carter James Robinson

Wedding of:

- Nicole Nussbaumer and Jesse Reiland

Prayers for Those Called to Serve in Other Countries

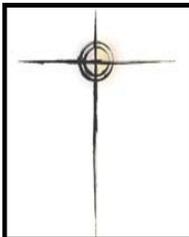
- Stephanie Olson

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

- Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
volunteers@foxcitiespac.com; (920)730-3767



High School Youth News

Grades 9-12

Oct. 7, 2018



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

10/10: Cafeteria Christian, how are you fed?

10/17: Fear is the theme, but you shouldn't be scared.

10/24: Halloween Party (costumes encouraged)

10/31: No refuel (Halloween night)

Social Media Corner

Follow us at FELC YOUTH on Facebook and felc.youth on Instagram!
#justdoit



High School Mission Trip
Blue Ridge Mountains, NC
July 20-27, 2019

Upcoming important dates for Mission Trip participants:

Sunday, Oct. 14 Scrip Sale Both Sites
Sunday, Oct. 21 Scrip Pick Up Both Sites
Sign up for shifts at www.felc.com/highschool or email Heidi

Sunday, Oct. 28 Packer Tailgate Party. Please RSVP on signup genius located at www.felc.com/highschool

Thank you to those who helped with Octoberfest Parking Lot Fundraisers and Bake Sale!
Over \$2,150 was raised throughout the weekend!

Oct. 7, 2018



Information for FELC Youth and Families
Grades K-12



Grab the Popcorn! We're Watching & Discussing "Inside Out" on Oct. 14

Join us on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 3:30 p.m. in the North Site Theater Room as we watch the award-winning animated film, "Inside Out", which explores the emotions of a girl after she moves to a new town. We will be discussing the movie and the feelings she expresses during our time together. A great Confirmation family assignment or just all around entertaining and interesting event for all ages. No advance registration is necessary.

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



Missed A Sunday? We've Got You Covered!

Family schedules can be hectic and sometimes you need to miss church on a Sunday. If that happens, know we have these tools in place to help you keep faith discussions going at home:

>The Lectionary week, verse and focus word for each Sunday are listed on the Sunday School calendar even when we don't have class.

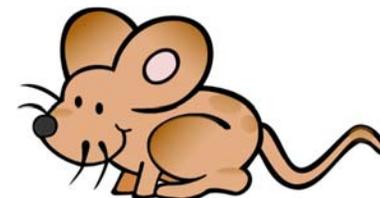
>Accordion folders are available in each classroom with the learner leaflets and Pastor Chat sheets for the week you missed.

Feel free to take these the next time you are at church.

> The Pastor Chat sheets for the week are listed online at www.felc.com under the forms tab.

Use these aids when you're gone and we look forward to seeing you the next time you're in class!

Confirmation This Week Keepin' It Small, Y'all



7th Grade: Students should have a **Chapter 2 Question to Ponder** done in their journal.

8th Grade: Students should have a **Chapter 2 Question to Ponder** done in their journal.

9th Grade: Devotion and gratitude entries should be done (six total, three per week). We will be discussing Stress-Coping & Comfort strategies including Christian comfort.



Small Group Leader Subs Needed!

Our leaders occasionally have conflicts on Wednesdays and we need your help to make sure students still have adult leadership. Please contact Kirsten if you might be willing to lend a hand when needed.

Family Assignment Alert!

Help fill the trailers on Oct.13 at 8 a.m. at the North Site for your family assignment. We need families to load Lutheran World Relief quilts and kits that have been created this past year. These



items will be distributed to people in need throughout the world. Students in grades 7-10 are asked to be accompanied by at least one parent. Please note: the busiest time where help is needed the most is 8 - 9:30 a.m. Added incentive: treats will be provided! Go to www.felc.com/forms to sign up.



If you love to bake contact **Kathy Larson** at klarson@felc.com to help fill the FELC freezer in October. **Great family assignment!**

Don't Forget Kid's Life
On Wednesday Nights
On Wednesday nights from
7-8 p.m. Downtown Site
Room 014. All students K-grade 6



are invited. Come any Wednesdays you're able. There's always a place for you and your friends !

Choir Corner

**Cherub Choir sings
TODAY at 9:15 a.m.**

**Angelus Choir sings
Oct. 14 at 8 a.m.**



Communion Class Registration Is Now Open

Communion Class is Mar. 11 but some students already registered last week. Go to www.felc.com if you have a grade 2 or older student and you'd like to register early.



Have questions or want to volunteer?

Contact Kirsten Owens at kowens@felc.com or 733-2303.



**Get Tested for Stigma:
Learn About Mental Illness Awareness Week**

This year, Oct. 7–13 is Mental Illness Awareness Week, a time to shine a light on mental illness and replace stigma with hope. Each year we fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for equal care. You can get involved at www.nami.org/miaw.

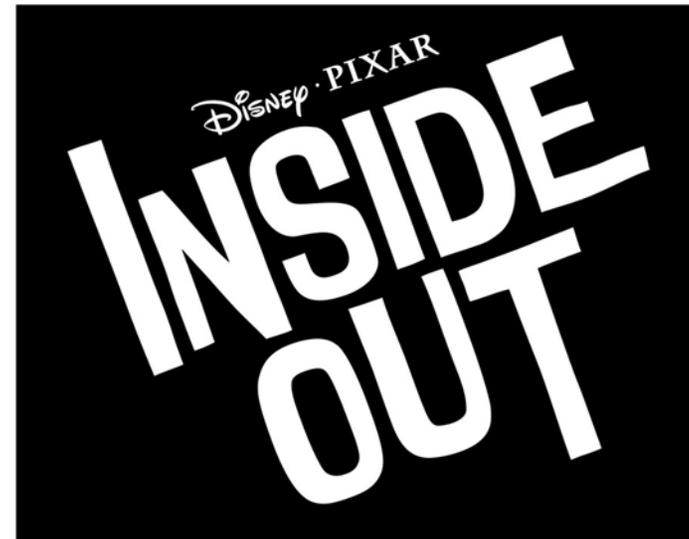
It is critical to learn to recognize early symptoms of mental illness and talk with a doctor about any concerns. Early identification and treatment can make a big difference for successful management of a condition.

For example, major depression is a mood disorder that is more serious than “feeling blue” or temporary sadness. Bipolar disorder involves cycles of both depression and mania. It is different from normal “ups and downs” that many people experience. Schizophrenia is a different type of mental illness but can include features of mood disorders. Other types of mental illness include attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety disorders (including posttraumatic stress disorder) and borderline personality disorder. Mental Illness Awareness Week is a time to learn about them all.

NAMI offers helpful information through its website (www.nami.org) and HelpLine (800-950-NAMI (6264)). With affiliates in hundreds of communities nationwide, NAMI also offers free education classes and support groups.

During Mental Illness Awareness Week, please take the first step to #CureStigma. Get tested at www.curestigma.org. Find out if you have stigma and help become part of the antidote to cure the barriers that prevent people from finding help and support.

You and your family are invited to a viewing of



Every day is full of
Emotions



**Sunday, Oct. 14
3:30 p.m.**

North Site Lower Level Theater Room

Lemonade and popcorn will be provided. There will be a few intermissions for discussion. Talking points for home will also be provided.

FELC DS Engage Page Oct. 7: 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 10:2-16 *Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.*

Sun. Oct 7: Family Project: David Lose writes, "A parishioner once told me that hearing this passage read in church felt like having someone dump garbage all over her. It didn't matter if she'd cleaned up and put on her Sunday best for church that morning, because after hearing these words she felt she like she couldn't get rid of the stink of her divorce." As a family talk about divorce. How do we help friends going through a divorce? How do we make our church a safe place to be? <http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=1505>

Mon. Oct. 8: Though outwardly about divorce, Jesus emphasizes here the importance of being a community where the vulnerable (women & children) are protected. David Lose writes, "It's not...a community of the strong, or the wealthy, or the powerful, or the independent...This is a community of the broken, of the vulnerable, of those at risk...of those who know their need and seek to be in relationship with each other" <http://www.davidlose.net/2015/09/pentecost-19-b-communities-of-the-broken-and-blessed/>

Tues. Oct. 9: When we were contemplating doing Divorce Care in our congregation, I was at a meeting with two people who had experienced divorce. As they discussed the feelings they had gone through, the air in the room got charged. It was as though we were reliving the weight of disappointment and loss, even though the divorces were long past. There is a huge sense of pain or betrayal associated with divorce. Let us all work to lay aside judgments and provide a shoulder to cry on for all those going through divorce or marital strife and for their families.

Wed. Oct. 10, Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

In the preceding verses, the Israelites have received a death sentence for their nation and religion. They are called to repent and "it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph." (v. 15) In order to receive this grace they are called to, "Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate." (v. 15) Mainline churches all over our country are closing doors. We need to accept that many Americans feel nothing but apathy as they contemplate the demise of a local church. How do we regain the respect of the community? We need to be ambassadors of Jesus' love so that our neighbors experience justice and goodness from our faith communities. When we do, "it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to ..." us!

Thurs. Oct. 11, Psalm 90:12-17

According to Martin Luther, the translation of verse 12 should be, "Teach us to reflect on the fact that we must die, so that we may become wise." If you think about "counting your days", that is exactly what you are doing—living with the awareness that you will die. However, that does not free us from our responsibilities in this present world. The psalmist ends with the prayer, "Prosper the work of our hands." May we taste the sweetness and joy of each day, while working with our hands so that others can experience God's steadfast love.

**Psalms*, James Limburg (Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville) p. 309.

Fri., Oct. 12, Hebrews 4:12-16

According to William Barclay, "the Stoics, the highest Greek thinkers, said the primary attribute of God is apatheia. By apatheia they meant essential inability to feel anything at all. They argued that if a person can feel sorrow or joy it means that some other person is able to influence that person." Their understanding was that if you could influence a person's feelings, you had power over that person—and no one can have power over God. So into a society where feelings were seen as weakness comes a Savior who identifies with the sufferings of humanity. Instead of being untouchable, our God knows our weaknesses, has mercy on us, and is willing and able to help when we are in need! *The Letter to the Hebrews*, William Barclay (Westminster Press: Philadelphia, 1957) p. 39.

Sat. Oct. 13, Mark 10:17-31

This passage is disheartening to all who are rich. How do we manage this passage? Is Jesus really calling us to sell all we have and give to the poor? How do we insulate ourselves from the demand? The sincerity of the law-keeping, rich young ruler is demonstrated when he goes away down-hearted. Sarah H Wilson points out that this rich, young man is the only person in Mark who is "singled out as being loved by Jesus."* Perhaps the lesson is that we are not meant to manage this passage, but rather to struggle with it, to ask ourselves what God is calling us to give—and to know we are loved by God in our struggles. *http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3795

*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: October 17, Pentecost 19

Mark 9:38-50 John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. "For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Sun. Oct. 7: Family Project: When Jesus talks about his followers being salt for the world, he states, "Salt is good." As someone who is more addicted to salty treats than sweet ones, I have to applaud the truth of that statement. Make a batch of popcorn the old fashion way –in a pan or popcorn maker that allows you to add the salt after the popcorn is popped. Have everyone taste it first without salt and then after you add the salt. What does the salt do to the flavor? How can we Christians be salt for the word –how can we make the world a better place.

Mon. Oct. 8: What if we all took these verses literally? Any who had somehow avoided harming the faith of children (*punishable with death by drowning*) would gather on a Sunday morning. Most would be missing a hand or a foot. Nearly all would be blind, since who among us hasn't been drawn to covet or judge by what we see? In contrast to this gory tableau we see the kindness of cold water met with great generosity –a heavenly reward. Instead of judging the good works of others, live a life of kindness, bringing flavor and goodness to the world.

Tues. Oct. 9: The disciples remind me of comedians or writers who are afraid that someone else is going to steal their act. Do they fear that Jesus' popularity will wain if there are others doing miracles? When we try to "own" the good that comes from the gospel, we are stuck measuring our contributions against others. Instead, give thanks for all actions that honor God, regardless of who has the joy of doing them.

Wed., Oct. 10, Isaiah 53:4-12 This passage of Isaiah has come to be known as one of the Suffering Servant passages. It is a text that portrays a different kind of Messiah who is stricken down on behalf of his people as an offering for sin. Verse 11 tells us, "*Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.*" It was passages such as this one that helped Paul and the disciples understand what Jesus' life here on earth was all about. In the midst of our sufferings may we always have the strength to look for the light each day, to be fed by our knowledge of God's Word, and to fall into the forgiveness of Jesus, finding our righteousness in him.

Thurs. Oct. 11, Psalm 91:9-16 When we read, "*Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name,*" we can respond in various ways. If we are at a high point in life, these verses can remind us how God helped us through darkness. If we are in hard times, we can read these words as an amazing promise of presence and protection from harm. However, when evil does befall us, when tragedy strikes and accidents or illness take away a loved one, we can be tempted to cry out to God, "Where were you?" If that is you today, be assured that God is with you, holding you through sorrow until you can once again experience joy.

Fri., Oct. 12, Hebrews 5:1-10 In Hebrews, we learn that Christ is able to be our advocate, our high priest, because he was obedient through sufferings. Obedience through suffering implies a willingness to open our hearts to the lessons life brings. As William Barclay writes, "*God speaks... in the many experiences of life, and not least in the experiences which try men's hearts and souls. But we can only hear that voice of God when we accept what comes to us in reverence. If we accept it with resentment, then the rebellious cries of our own heart make us deaf to the voice of God.*"

The Letter to the Hebrews, William Barclay (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, May 1957.) p. 46.

Sat. Oct. 13, Mark 10:35-45 For the third time Jesus predicts that he is going to Jerusalem where he will suffer and die. And for the third time the disciples respond in a way that makes it clear that they don't "get it." When presented with the possibility that their decision to follow Jesus will end badly, they revert to self-preservation. Their request to sit on Jesus' right and left in glory reveals an understanding of power and money, (in other words security) being limited in supply, something we need to grab for ourselves when we have the chance. We can do the same when we feel our security threatened. Once again Jesus teaches that the great leader is the one who serves the needs of others. May we be brave in our willingness to be vulnerable and open in service to others.

*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